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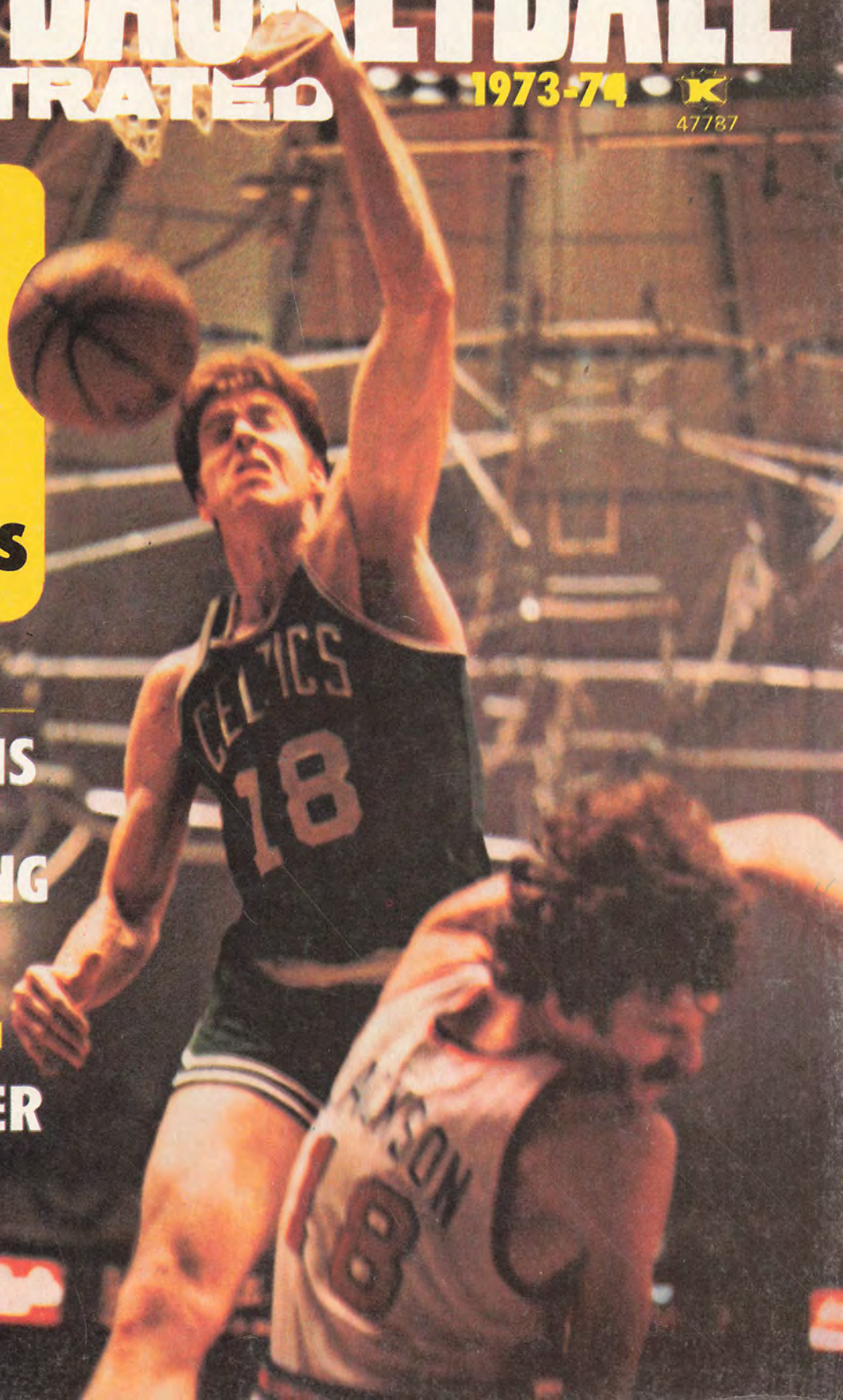
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ILLUSTRATED 73-74

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1972-73 NBA STATISTICS

INDIVIDUAL SCORING LEADERS

(Minimum: 70 games played)

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG.		G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG.
Archibald, KC-O	80	1028	663	2719	34.0	Havlicek, Bos	80	766	370	1902	23.8
Abdul-Jabbar, Mil	76	982	328	2292	30.2	B. Love, Chic	82	774	347	1895	23.1
Haywood, Sea	77	889	473	2251	29.2	*West, L.A.	69	618	339	1575	22.8
Hudson, Atl	75	816	397	2029	27.1	Bing, Det	82	692	456	1840	22.4
Maravich, Atl	79	789	485	2063	26.1	Barry, G.S.	82	737	358	1832	22.3
Scott, Phoe	81	806	436	2048	25.3	Hayes, Balt	81	713	291	1717	21.2
Petrie, Port	79	836	298	1970	24.9	Frazier, N.Y.	78	681	286	1648	21.1
Goodrich, L.A.	76	750	314	1814	23.9	Carr, Clev	82	702	281	1685	20.5
Wicks, Port	80	761	384	1906	23.8	Cowens, Bos	82	740	204	1684	20.5
Lanier, Det	81	810	307	1927	23.8	Wilkins, Clev	75	572	394	1538	20.5

*Arbitrarily adding one game to qualify results in a 22.5 average, West thereby is included among the leaders.

FIELD GOAL LEADERS

(Minimum 560 attempts)

	FG	FGA	PCT.
Chamberlain, L.A.	426	586	.727
Guokas, KC-O	322	565	.570
Abdul-Jabbar, Mil	982	1772	.554
Rowe, Det	547	1053	.519
J. Fox, Sea	316	613	.515
Lucas, N.Y.	312	608	.513
Riordan, Balt	652	1278	.510
Clark, Balt	302	596	.507
Kauffman, Buff	535	1059	.505
Bellamy, Atl	455	901	.505

FREE THROW LEADERS

(Minimum 160 attempts)

	FT	FTA	PCT.
Barry, G.S.	358	397	.902
Murphy, Hou	239	269	.888
Newlin, Hou	327	369	.886
J. Walker, Hou	244	276	.884
Bradley, N.Y.	169	194	.871
C. Russell, G.S.	172	199	.864
Snyder, Sea	186	216	.861
D. VanArsdale, Phoe	426	496	.859
Havlicek, Bos	370	431	.858
Marin, Hou	248	292	.849

REBOUND LEADERS

(Minimum 70 games)

	G	NO.	AVG.
Chamberlain, L.A.	82	1526	18.6
Thurmond, G.S.	79	1349	17.1
Cowens, Bos.	82	1329	16.2
Abdul-Jabbar, Milw.	76	1224	16.1
Unseld, Balt.	79	1260	15.9
Lanier, Det.	81	1205	14.9
Hayes, Balt.	81	1177	14.5
Bellamy, Atl.	74	964	13.0
Silas, Bos.	80	1039	13.0
Haywood, Sea	77	995	12.9

ASSISTS LEADERS

(Minimum 70 games)

	G	NO.	AVG.
Archibald, KC-O	80	910	11.4
Wilkins, Clev	75	628	8.4
Bing, Det.	82	637	7.8
Robertson, Milw.	73	551	7.5
Van Lier, Chi.	80	567	7.1
Maravich, Atl.	79	546	6.9
Havlicek, Bos.	80	529	6.6
Gilliam, Atl.	76	482	6.3
Scott, Phoe	81	495	6.1
White, Bos.	82	498	6.1

Most Minutes Played: 3681, Archibald, KC-O

Most Field Goals, Game: 24, Barry, G.S. vs
Hou. 1/17/73 24,
Abdul-Jabbar, Milw.

Most Points, Game: 53, Chenier, Balt.

vs Port. 12/6/72

Most Games Disqualified:

Most Free Throws, Game: 21, Haywood, Sea.
vs KC-O 1/3/73

Most Rebounds, Game: 33, Lanier, Det. vs

Sea. 12/22/72

Most Assists, Game: 21, Archibald, KC-O
vs Det. 12/12/72

Most Personal Fouls: 323, Walk, Phoe.

16, E. Smith, Buff.

1973-74 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Previews and Predictions

By Dave Klein and the Editors



The 27th season of the National Basketball Association begins with a series of intriguing questions. When it ends, the answers will have helped to decide champions and playoff combatants.

For instance, can the aging dynasty of Dave DeBusschere, Bill Bradley, Willis Reed et al in New York produce for the Knicks yet another unexpected championship? Will the charging youth in Boston bring to loyal and vocal Celtic fans their desired playoff success over the "hated" Knicks?

Will Bill Russell, the new head coach in Seattle, be able to accomplish what he did first as a

player and then as a player-coach in Boston, namely a string of successful years?

Can the Los Angeles Lakers, perhaps even older than the Knicks, come back for still another try at the championship? Few final rounds have been contested without the Lakers, but now that age has reached Wilt Chamberlain and Jerry West, can this dynasty continue?

What of the Milwaukee Bucks, who possess in Kareem Abdul-Jabbar the finest center in the league but who own, in Bob Dandridge, Curtis Perry, Lucius Allen and Oscar Robertson, a supporting cast either ordinary or aging?

Can Abdul-Jabbar be enough?

And Golden State? There is Rick Barry, Nate Thurmond, Cazzie Russell, Jeff Mullins. In short, all the ingredients for a chase at Los Angeles. But will it hold together?

Buffalo is stronger, as is Atlanta and Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit, Houston and the Capital (nee Baltimore) Bullets. The names of the rookies are fresh from All-American rolls. The stars are still there, ready to ignite once again.

Ready or not, the multi-million dollar business called the NBA is ready to open shop for another season.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

BOSTON CELTICS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
John Havlicek	80	3367	766	1704	.450	370	431	.858	567	529	195	1	1902	23.8
Dave Cowens	82	3425	740	1637	.452	204	262	.779	1329	333	311	7	1684	20.5
Jo Jo White	82	3250	717	1665	.431	178	228	.781	414	498	185	2	1612	19.7
Paul Silas	80	2618	400	851	.470	266	380	.700	1039	251	197	1	1066	13.3
Don Chaney	79	2488	414	859	.482	210	267	.787	449	221	276	6	1038	13.1
Don Nelson	72	1425	309	649	.476	159	188	.846	315	102	155	1	777	10.8
Steve Kuberski	78	762	140	347	.403	65	84	.774	197	26	92	0	345	4.4
Paul Westphal	60	482	89	212	.420	67	86	.779	67	69	88	0	245	4.1
Art Williams	81	974	110	261	.421	43	56	.768	182	236	136	1	263	3.2
Hank Finkel	76	496	78	173	.451	28	52	.538	151	26	83	0	184	2.4
Tom Sanders	59	423	47	149	.315	23	35	.657	88	27	82	0	117	2.0
Mark Minor	4	20	1	4	.250	3	4	.750	4	2	5	0	5	1.3

It was another year of glory followed by frustration for the Boston Celtics. For the second season in a row they captured the regular-season championship of the Eastern Conference's Atlantic Division.

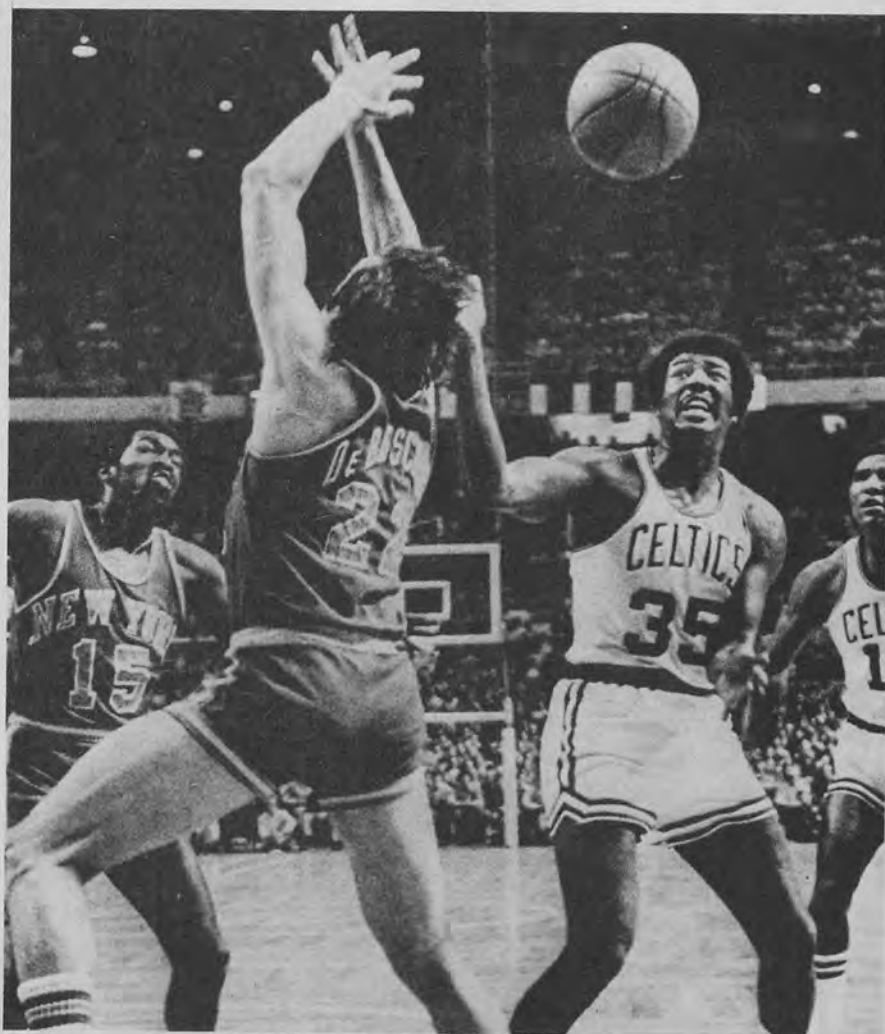
For the second season in a row, they made it to the Conference final.

And, for the second season in a row, they were defeated by the New York Knicks, runnerup team in the same division.

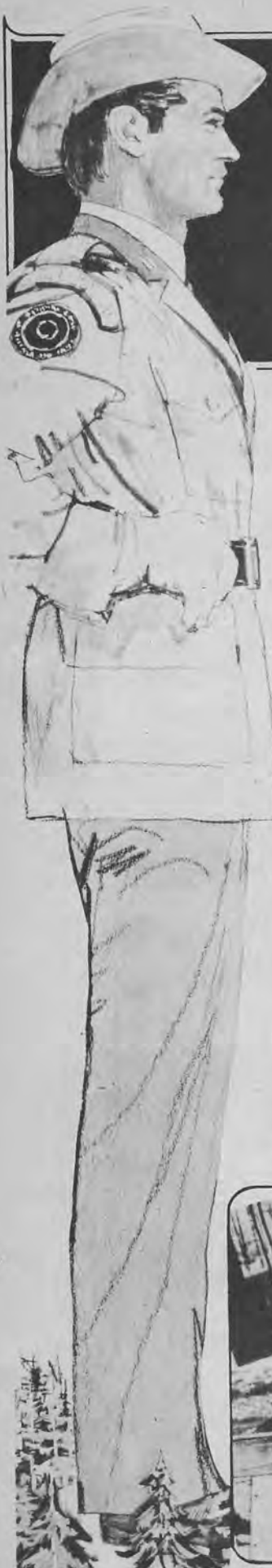
It was a better team, however, and now that the elderly Knicks are a year further down the road, it could all come together for Tough Tom Heinsohn and his Celtics.

The man in the middle is the key to this team, as it was for all the years that Bill Russell handled the position. This time the name is Dave Cowens, the fire-haired, hair-trigger tempered center who was named the league's Most Valuable Player in the 1972-73 season.

Cowens, a "new breed" of fast, rangy and arrogant center, is 6-9 and 225 and tough. He scored 20.5 points per game, added 16.2 rebounds (third best NBA figure) and is the heart and soul of the Celtics. Even in defeat, when the



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Celtics lost the seven-game heart-breaker to New York, Cowens was magnificent. He could have done no more. Indeed, the key event might well have been a shoulder injury suffered by the team's other superstar, veteran forward-guard John Havlicek.

Hondo, a 6-5 scorer, playmaker and team leader, will be back for what might be his final season. He's 33 now and the way he plays this game his body must be closer to 53. But he's coming back. Right now, the Celtics refuse to think past that.

To go with Cowens and Havlicek are guards Jo Jo White and Don Chaney, though Chaney's job might be in jeopardy this year with the expected improvement of Paul Westphal, a rookie last year from Southern California.

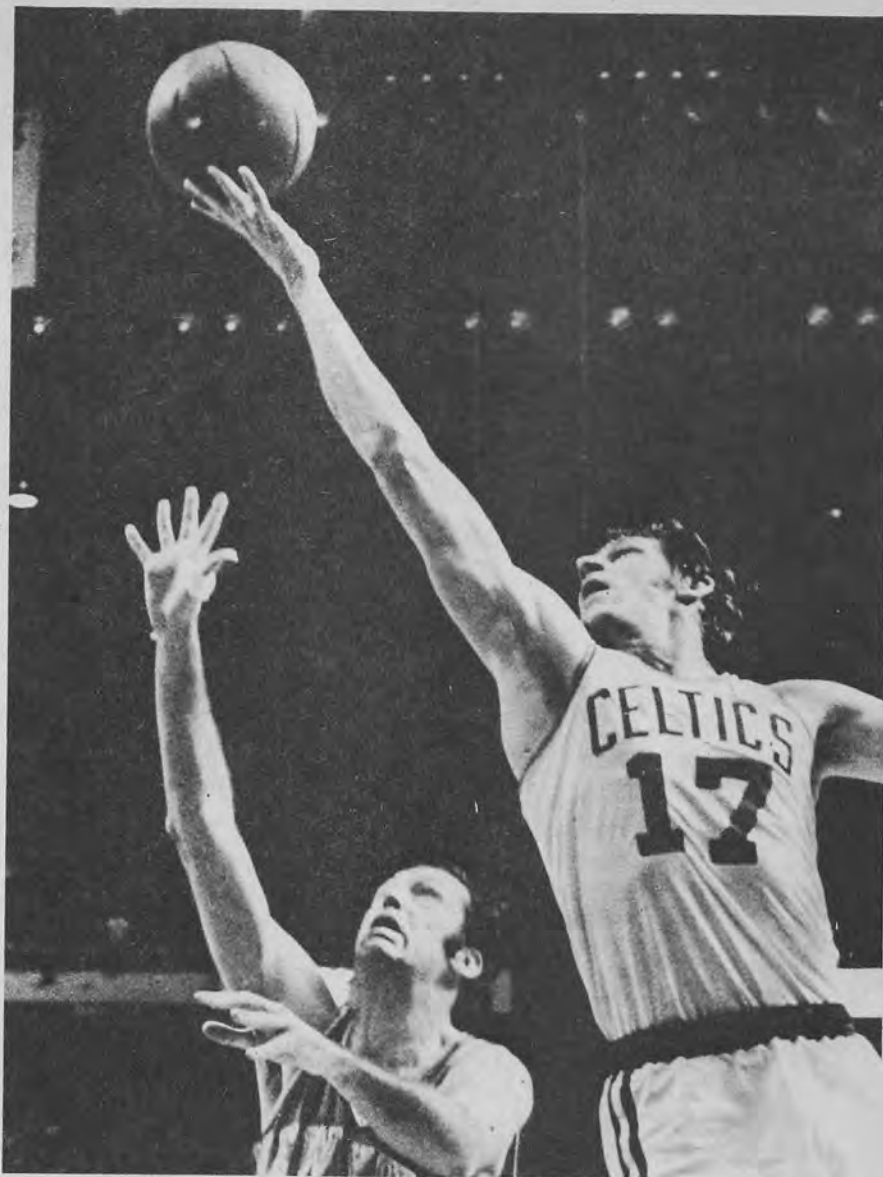
Jo Jo has all the ingredients—speed, quickness, defensive ability, intelligence and scoring potential—and at 6-3 he is considered one of the league's top five guards. Chaney, a bigger man at 6-5, is a defensive "specialist" because Havlicek, Cowens and White do the shooting. But "Ducky" can shoot, has had big games and might be difficult to dislodge.

Paul Silas, who came in last year from Phoenix, was the final piece to Heinsohn's jigsaw puzzle. The 6-7 rebounder is a strong boards performer and took some of the burden off Cowens, freeing the center to concentrate on defense. Silas was not a scorer in past years (with St. Louis, Atlanta and Phoenix) nor did he suddenly become one in Boston. But he did average 13 rebounds and his defense is rugged.

Satch Sanders has retired, but the Boston bench is still solid with such as 6-6 Don Nelson, 6-7 Steve Kuberski, 6-2 Art "Hambone" Williams and Westphal.

Rookies with clear chances to stick include 6-7 Steve Downing of Indiana and 6-6 forward Phil Han-kinson of Penn. Downing, the team's top choice, could threaten someone like Kuberski and 6-6 Clarence Glover, another youngster who sits on the bench.

Predicted Finish: 1st



John Havlicek



Don Chaney



Jo Jo White

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	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	FT Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Walt Frazier	78	3181	681	1389	.490	286	350	.817	570	461	186	0	1648	21.1
Dave DeBusschere	77	2827	532	1224	.435	194	260	.746	787	259	215	1	1258	16.3
Bill Bradley	82	2998	575	1252	.459	169	194	.871	301	367	273	5	1319	16.1
Earl Monroe	75	2370	496	1016	.488	171	208	.822	245	288	195	1	1163	15.5
Willis Reed	69	1876	334	705	.474	92	124	.742	590	126	205	0	760	11.0
Jerry Lucas	71	2001	312	608	.513	80	100	.800	510	317	157	0	704	9.9
Phil Jackson	80	1392	245	553	.443	154	195	.790	344	94	218	2	644	8.1
Dean Meminger	80	1453	188	365	.515	81	129	.628	229	133	109	1	457	5.7
Henry Bibby	55	475	78	205	.380	73	86	.849	82	64	67	0	229	4.2
Dick Barnett	51	514	88	226	.389	16	30	.533	41	50	52	0	192	3.8
John Gianelli	52	516	79	175	.451	23	33	.697	150	25	72	0	181	3.5
Tom Riker	14	65	10	24	.417	15	24	.625	16	2	15	0	35	2.5
Harthorne Wingo	13	59	9	22	.409	2	6	.333	16	1	9	0	20	1.5
Luther Rackley	1	2	0	0	.000	0	0	.000	1	0	2	0	0	0.0



Dave DeBusschere

The league champions didn't have a top scorer nor a top rebounder. Their closest challenger for the title of superstar is 6-4 guard Walt "Clyde" Frazier. They use two men to play center—one who has still not recovered from two-year-old knee surgery, another whose best shot is from 25 feet away and who, as a rebounder, prefers to let the forwards do it.

They are, of course, 6-10 Willis Reed and 6-8 Jerry Lucas.

The forwards, too, are a bit

deviant from the norm. One is 33 years old and has already announced his intention to join the New York Nets of the rival ABA next season—as their general manager. The other is a Princeton graduate who spent two years studying under a Rhodes scholarship who annually decides whether to play another year or enter public service.

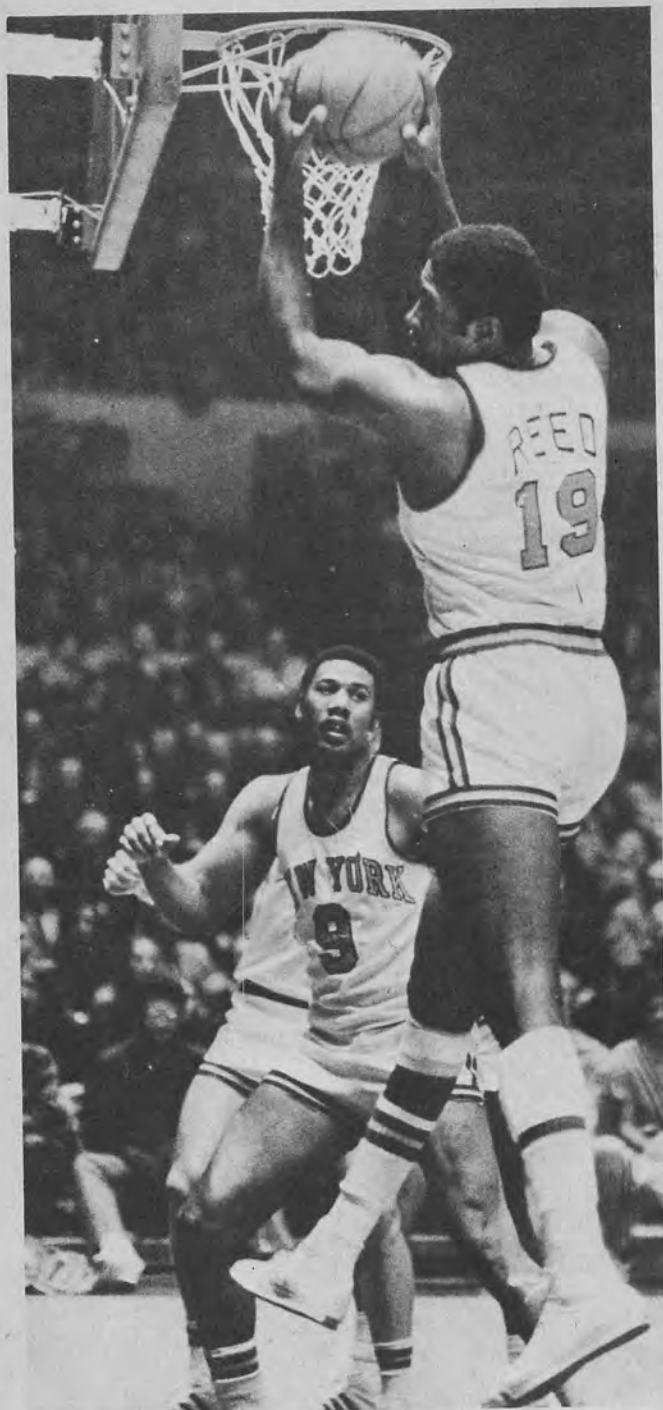
They are, of course, 6-6 Dave DeBusschere and 6-5 Bill Bradley.

Oh, yes, the other guard is per-

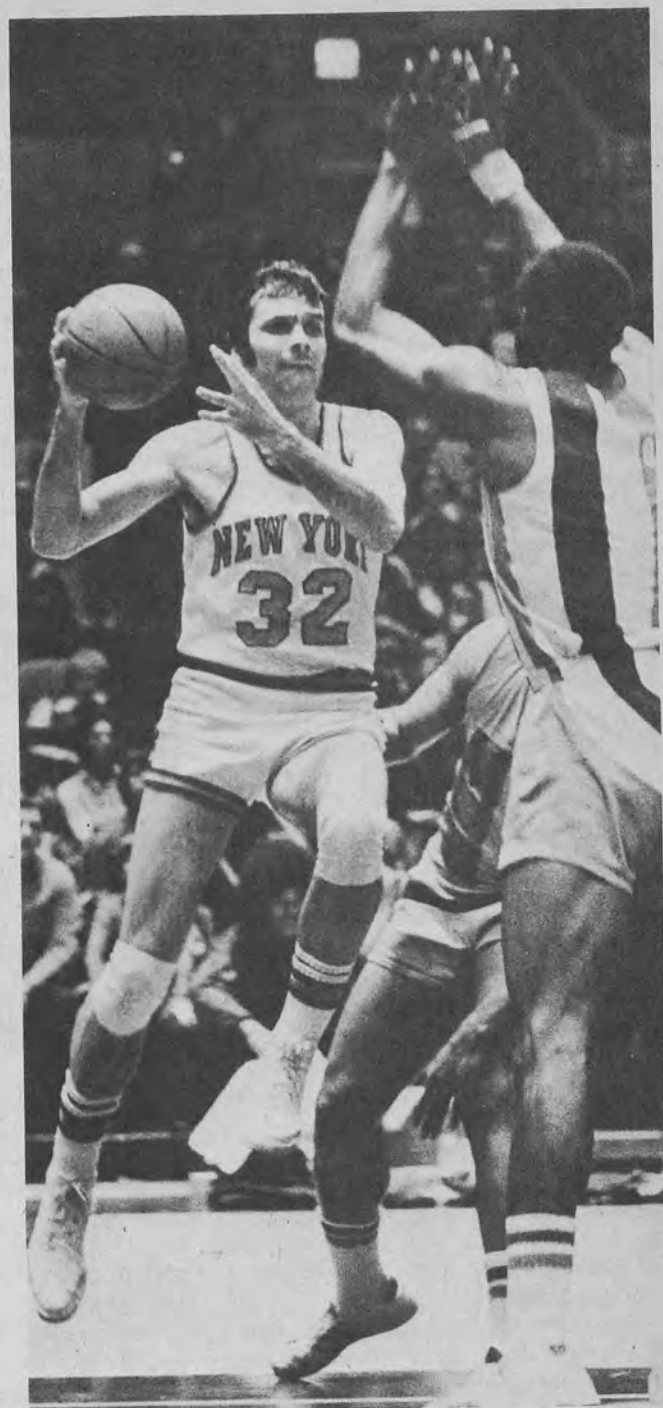
haps the world's greatest (normal-sized) one-on-one player who, under coach Red Holzman's team concept, has been forcibly restrained from utilizing his natural gifts. He is Earl Monroe.

So the Knicks, a puzzle to most and a decided annoyance to the "better teams," continue to win. How they do it is not a mystery; that they continue to do it, is.

How they do it is with defense and Frazier. The defense is an all-encompassing, clutching and



Willis Reed



Jerry Lucas

suffocating team thing that borders on just the right side of the league's no-zone rule. The guards press the ball and the forwards help the guards and the center helps the forwards. That's when Reed is the center.

When it's Lucas, the defense is the team's offense. Jerry stays outside, way out there with the guards, and he shoots. The problem is that he makes those shots, which forces out less mobile centers to cover him. That opens the

middle for the driving of DeBusschere and Bradley and Frazier, and it so disrupts the opposition that its offense suffers.

In any case, the Knicks sort of coasted to a 57-25 record last season, not as good as Boston's 68-14 by any means. But when the Knicks had to beat Boston they did, just as they have done for four years now. It is a veteran team, thoroughly familiar with Holzman's coaching and philosophies, and pressure is something these men

thrive under, not fold under.

The bench, another Knick trademark, offers such as 6-1 Dean Meminger, 6-8 Phil Jackson, 6-10 John Gianelli, 6-3 Henry Bibby and 6-8 Harthorne Wingo. If the Knicks sign their No. 1 draft pick, 6-7 Mel Davis of St. John's, they'll have a tiger.

Balance . . . team defense . . . hitting the open man. It's New York style, and no team does it better than New York.

Predicted Finish: 2nd

BUFFALO BRAVES

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Elmore Smith	76	2829	600	1244	.482	188	337	.558	946	192	295	16	1388	18.3
Bob McAdoo	80	2562	585	1293	.452	271	350	.774	728	139	256	6	1441	18.0
Bob Kauffman	77	3049	535	1059	.505	280	359	.780	855	396	211	1	1350	17.5
Randy Smith	82	2603	511	1154	.443	192	264	.727	391	422	247	1	1214	14.8
Dick Garrett	78	1805	341	813	.419	96	110	.873	209	217	217	4	778	10.0
John Hummer	66	1546	206	464	.444	115	205	.561	323	138	185	5	527	8.0
Dave Wohl (Tot)	78	1933	254	568	.447	103	133	.774	109	326	227	3	611	7.8
Dave Wohl (Buff)	56	1540	207	454	.456	79	100	.790	89	258	182	3	493	8.8
Fred Hilton	59	731	191	494	.387	41	53	.774	98	74	100	0	423	7.2
Howard Komives	67	1468	163	429	.380	85	98	.867	118	239	155	1	411	6.1
Mahdi Abdul-Rahman	9	134	25	60	.417	3	6	.500	10	17	19	0	53	5.9
Bill Hewitt	73	1332	152	364	.418	41	74	.554	368	110	154	3	345	4.7
Cornell Warner	4	47	8	17	.471	1	2	.500	15	6	6	0	17	4.3
Harold Fox	10	84	12	32	.375	7	8	.875	8	10	7	0	31	3.1

It hasn't been much fun in Buffalo for general manager Eddie Donovan. But he's one of the most knowledgeable men in the business and this year, Buffalo's fourth in the NBA, should be one of partial success.

Eddie, along with head coach Jack Ramsay, has acquired over the brief period 7-1 center Elmore Smith, 6-9 forward Bob McAdoo, and now rookie sensation Ernie DiGregorio, the top draft pick and the electrifying All-American guard from Providence.

It's ready to explode, along with such starters as bulky forward Bob Kauffman and 6-4 guard Randy Smith.

The Braves have the essential ingredient, of course, the big man. Smith has become a rebounder and a shot-blocker and he can score. McAdoo is all three as well, and was Rookie of the Year.

Kauffman is the defensive stalwart, the man who takes on the tough forwards and plays them even because he's even tougher. Smith is a leaper, with a nice outside touch and a 14.8 scoring average plus an affinity for finding the open man under the backboards.

But hitting the open man is what Ernie Di does so well, in addition to making some physically impossible passes and finding some way to suddenly work through a forest of arms and legs for a clear shot.

Clearly one of the game's most exciting performers, Ernie Di didn't hold well with many scouts because he's only six feet tall. But Donovan has dealt with players,



Elmore Smith



Bob Kauffman

and he says Ernie can make it at any height.

He'd better be right. The Braves spent nearly \$1,000,000 to lure him away from the ABA's Kentucky Colonels.

Ernie Di, according to Donovan, could be the final piece to the Braves playoff hopes. There is Elmore Smith, surely big enough and clearly strong enough to stand off any center. But he's young. His scoring does not border on the consistent yet, and he cannot stray too far from the basket and still connect.

McAdoo is a pure player, an offensive whiz whose defense is sometimes faulty but whose shot-blocking is fine and who can crash the boards with no thought to his own or anyone else's safety.

Smith is an adequate ball-handler and scorer, but he, too, has been lost by offensive guards. His defense could be his undoing.

To a greater extent, the youth of the team could be its undoing. Still, there are seasoned bench people such as Dick Garrett, Dave Wohl, Fred Hilton and Howard Komives at guard; John Hummer (he might yet be a regular) and Bill Hewitt at forwards.

DiGregorio could be the paste that glues it all together. Or he could need a year of seasoning before taking charge.

But in any case, the Braves are on upbeat. They may, indeed, be on the brink of doing a great deal of winning for a long time.

Predicted Finish: 3rd

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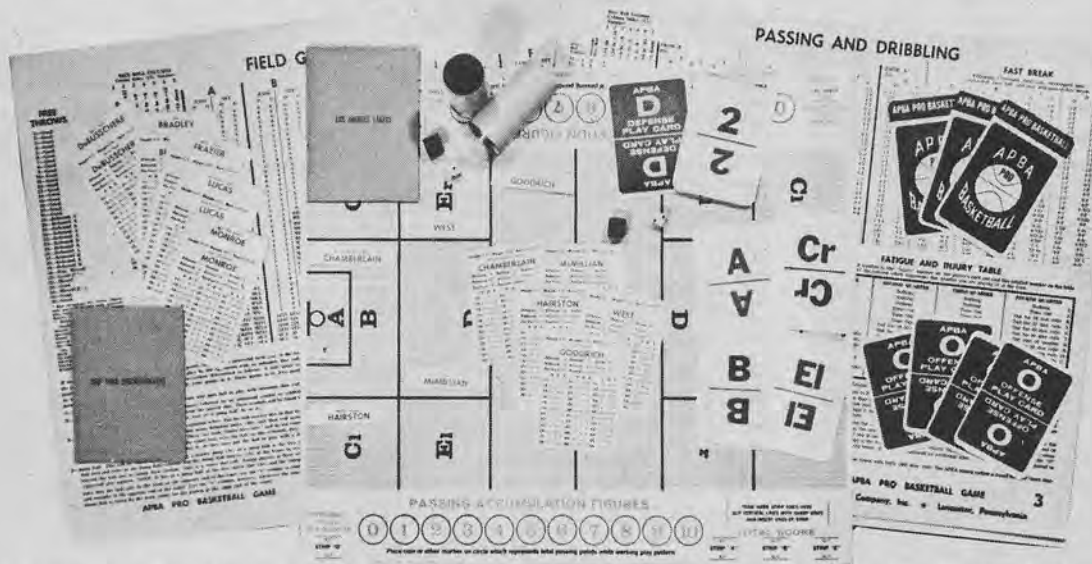
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Fred Carter	81	2993	679	1614	.421	259	368	.704	485	349	252	8	1617	20.0
John Block	48	1558	311	706	.441	236	302	.781	442	94	173	4	858	17.9
T. Van Arsdale (Tot)	79	2311	445	1043	.427	250	308	.812	358	152	224	2	1140	14.4
T. Van Arsdale (Phil)	30	1029	195	496	.393	140	168	.833	185	62	101	1	530	17.7
Bill Bridges	10	376	47	125	.376	46	65	.708	122	23	35	0	140	14.0
Kevin Loughery	32	955	169	427	.396	107	130	.823	113	148	104	0	445	13.9
Leroy Ellis (Tot)	79	2600	421	969	.434	129	161	.801	777	139	199	2	971	12.3
Leroy Ellis (Phil)	69	2444	410	929	.441	125	156	.801	744	136	186	2	945	13.7
Manny Leaks	82	2530	377	933	.404	144	200	.720	677	95	191	5	898	11.0
Fred Boyd	82	2351	362	923	.392	136	200	.680	210	301	184	1	860	10.5
John Trapp (Tot)	44	889	171	420	.407	90	122	.738	200	49	150	4	432	9.8
John Trapp (Phil)	39	854	168	408	.412	83	112	.741	186	47	140	4	419	10.7
Don May (Tot)	58	919	189	424	.446	75	93	.806	210	64	135	1	453	7.8
Don May (Phil)	26	602	128	290	.441	53	62	.855	143	43	80	1	309	11.9
Jeff Halliburton (Tot)	55	787	172	396	.434	71	88	.807	108	96	107	1	415	7.5
Jeff Halliburton (Phil)	31	549	122	280	.436	50	66	.758	82	68	78	1	294	9.5
Hal Greer	38	848	91	232	.392	32	39	.821	106	111	76	1	214	5.6



Tom Van Arsdale

The worst team in the history of the NBA has one comforting thought to hold onto as it prepares for this new season: It cannot be any worse, so there must be an improvement.

There better be. The 76ers lured Gene Shue from the Bullets when Kevin Loughery resigned as coach to accept a similar post with the ABA New York Nets.

That was after Loughery had replaced Roy Rubin, who started the season after resigning as the head coach of Long Island University. Now Shue has the job—not a bad job, considering—and because no one expects very much, his first year should be relatively simple.

Players? Well, that's something else again. There are such as Tom Van Arsdale, Leroy Ellis (he's 33, however), Fred Boyd, Freddy Carter and Manny Leaks. They hustle,

they score, they play some defense . . . but clearly, they weren't nearly enough.

Putting trust in rookies is risky, but Shue has no other choice. There is 6-5 guard Doug Collins—"the next Jerry West," say the scouts—and such as 6-2 Ray Lewis of Los Angeles State, 6-7 Allan Bristow and 6-6 Rod Freeman. Lewis was second in the nation to "Bird" Averitt in college scoring and could team up as a backcourt.

A big man is needed, and a big man isn't present, unless it happens via trade or unless one of the lesser draft choices comes through. Reggie Royals, 6-10 from Florida State, could do it. He was claimed on the fifth round but seems to be a more qualified forward.

Van Arsdale is the star of this

group, a 17.7 scorer after joining the Sixers from Kansas City-Omaha for center John Block. But the crying need is still for a man big enough to handle the pivot and handle it competently. No one on the squad seems to fill that bill.

The bench is mainly 6-4 Don May and 6-5 Jeff Halliburton, which isn't a hell of a lot but is all Shue has to work with. The fact of being in the same division with the Knicks, Celtics and improving Braves can't be terribly thrilling to weary Sixer fans and players, either.

In all, Shue should be allowed to spend the year grooming Collins and Lewis. Then, next year, maybe the Sixers will reach the dizzying, oxygen-thin heights of .500.

Predicted Finish: 4th



Freddie Carter

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Until now, the only isokinetic exercisers available were complicated machines costing from \$150 to over \$4000. But NOW! A NEW invention, amazing in its

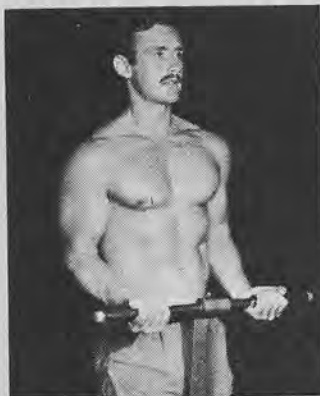
beautiful simplicity, puts isokinetic muscle building within your reach for only a few dollars.

Powerex - Isokinetics

The invention is POWEREX! It is a pure isokinetic exerciser designed to give you the ultimate benefits of muscle, strength, and explosive power in a hurry. And, as you know, with these benefits come the added benefits of confidence, virility, and the outgoing personality that enables you to get along well with others of both sexes.

POWEREX is going to do all this for you through the following isokinetic principles:

- 1) POWEREX builds your muscles through their full range of movement. It works every small muscle fiber to its utmost. Not the grunt-and-groan partial static results of an isometric gadget, but the total dynamic power of isokinetics!
- 2) POWEREX has the exclusive CONTROL GRIPS. You instantly and smoothly change the amount of "weight" working for you, to the maximum your muscles can handle . . . from zero to hundreds of pounds, quickly building your



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The following information comes from several recent (1971-72) U. S. athletic coaching journals. Copyright laws prevent us from using names for profit, but the information is authentic.

1. Several experts conducted a scientific experiment. It showed that the average peak strength improvement after only eight weeks, for each type of exercise, was:

Isokinetics	47.2%
Weight Lifting	28.6%
Isometrics	12.1%

2. One group of researchers stated that all published research matching isokinetics with weight lifting and isometrics showed that isokinetics is greatly superior for muscle building.

3. The coach of a U.S. multi-gold medal winner in 1972 Olympic swimming claims that strength improves faster with isokinetics than with any

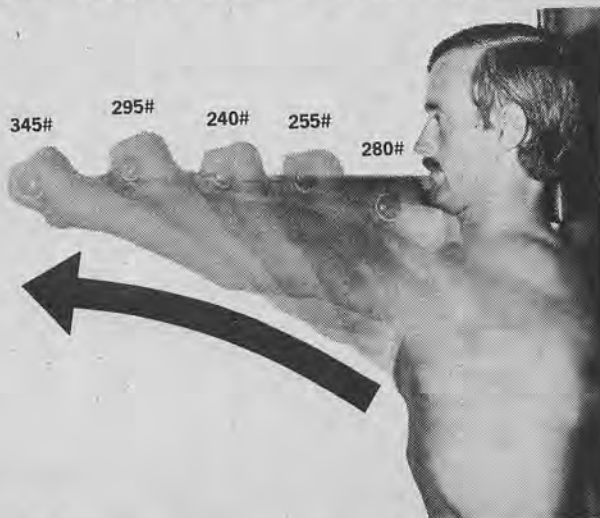
other method.

4. Many of the professional football teams (colleges and high schools too) are now using isokinetics, and others are quickly following.

5. Two athletic trainers say that isokinetics combines the best of isometrics and isotonic (e.g., weight lifting) into one.

6. You would think that a weight lifter would really be at peak strength after nine years of training and competition. This nine-year man then tried isokinetics. Only ten weeks later he had increased his all around strength by 26%!

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Central Division

ATLANTA HAWKS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	DQ	Tot Pts.	Avg Pts.
Lou Hudson	75	3027	816	1710	.477	397	481	.825	467	258	197	1	2029	27.1
Pete Maravich	79	3089	789	1788	.441	485	606	.800	346	546	245	1	2063	26.1
Walt Bellamy	74	2802	455	901	.505	283	526	.538	964	179	244	1	1193	16.1
Herm Gilliam	76	2741	471	1007	.468	123	150	.820	399	482	257	8	1065	14.0
George Trapp	77	1853	359	824	.436	150	194	.773	455	127	274	11	868	11.3
Jim Washington	75	2833	308	713	.432	163	224	.728	801	174	252	5	779	10.4
Steve Bracey	70	1050	192	395	.486	73	110	.664	107	125	125	0	457	6.5
Don Adams	4	76	8	38	.211	7	8	.875	22	5	11	0	23	5.8
Jeff Halliburton	24	238	50	116	.431	21	22	.955	26	28	29	0	121	5.0
Don May	32	317	61	134	.455	22	31	.710	67	21	55	0	144	4.5
Bob Christian	55	759	85	155	.548	60	79	.759	305	47	111	2	230	4.2
John Wetzel	28	504	42	94	.447	14	17	.824	58	39	41	1	98	3.5
John Tschogl	10	94	14	40	.350	2	4	.500	21	6	25	0	30	3.0
Eddie Mast	42	447	50	118	.424	19	30	.633	136	37	50	0	119	2.8



Walt Bellamy

Any team with a backcourt of Pete Maravich and Lou Hudson should be electrifying in its success. Any team with Maravich in the backcourt and Hudson at a forward position should be equally exciting.

Last season the Hawks had both, and neither combination worked out precisely as it should. The Hawks, under first-year coach Cotton Fitzsimmons, finished second to the Capital (nee Baltimore) Bullets. They did have a 46-36 record, which isn't bad, but with the kind of personnel they displayed on the court the record should have been better.

So now Fitzsimmons, more fa-

miliar with the team and free of general manager Richie Guerin, prepares to contest the Bullets again for the championship of the Central Division. There is no other competition, since Cleveland and Houston are the other two members of this grouping.

Maravich and Herm Gilliam are the guards, Pete with a 26.1 scoring average, Gilliam adequate at 14.0 but spectacular with 6.3 assists. Hudson will be at a forward spot (he scored even more than Maravich at 27.1) along with muscular Jim Washington, a 6-8 rebounder with almost no scoring touch but a good defensive player and valuable on a team with as

many "guns" as this one.

Center? That is alternately a problem or a blessing, depending on the mood one finds Walt Bellamy in. Walter played well last year, scoring at a 16.1 clip and rebounding as everyone knows he can. But he's nearing the age when he should start thinking of retirement, and he has never been one of those who races up and down the court anyway.

Yet, surprisingly, he has retained his inherent quickness. He is perhaps the quickest center in the NBA from the foul line to the basket, and can be one of the best in all phases of the game.

Should Bells be in an off-year,



Pete Maravich

Fitzsimmons has Dale Schlueter, a one-time backup to Nate Thurmond. But Schlueter is not the answer.

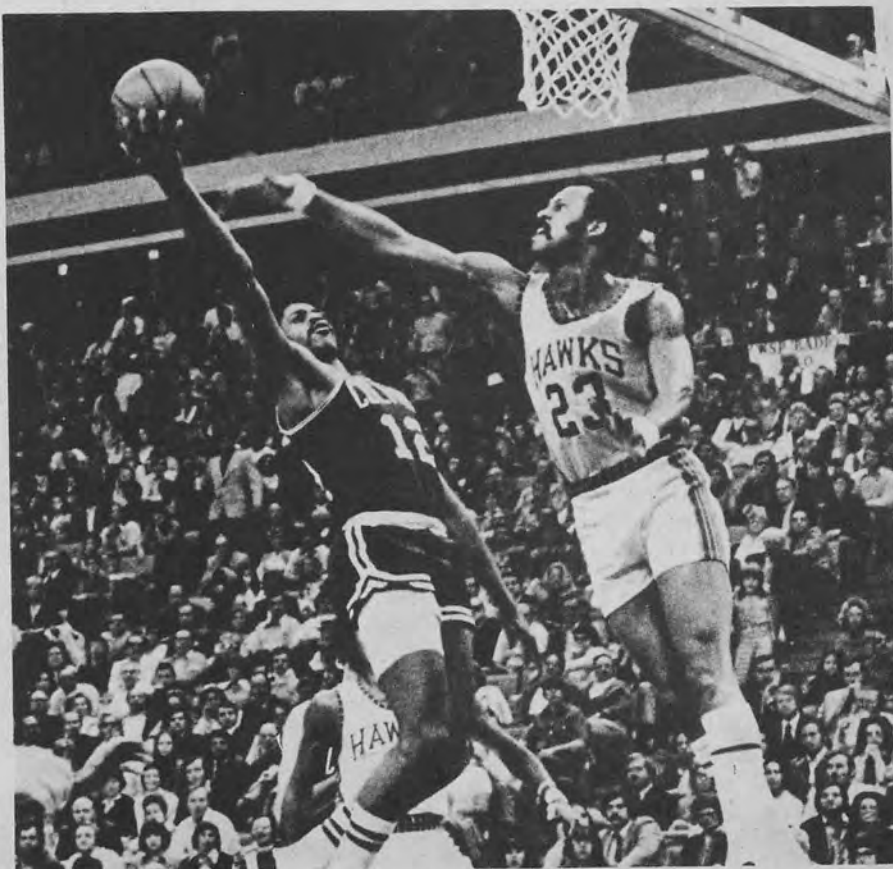
Still, Maravich and Gilliam, Hudson and Washington . . . it's good. And the Hawks had a surprisingly successful draft, coming up with 6-10 Dwight Jones from Houston and 6-7 John Brown of Missouri on the first round. In the second round, Guerin and Fitzsimmons decided on slick Villanova guard Tom Inglesby, a 6-3 "find" with potential to start soon.

So Hudson and Maravich scored over 2,000 points. Maravich and Gilliam averaged more than six assists per game. Bellamy played good, hard basketball, which is the only kind Washington knows anyway.

And now there is the promise of three youngsters, added to a bench of Eddie Mast and Steve Bracey.

The south may, indeed, rise again. This year.

Predicted Finish: 1st



Lou Hudson

CAPITAL BULLETS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	FG Pct.	FT	FTA	FT Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Elvin Hayes	81	3347	713	1607	.444	291	434	.671	1177	127	232	3	1717	21.2
Phil Chenier	71	2776	602	1332	.452	194	244	.795	288	301	160	0	1398	19.7
Archie Clark	39	1477	302	596	.507	111	137	.810	129	275	111	1	715	18.3
Mike Riordan	82	3466	652	1278	.510	179	218	.821	404	426	216	0	1483	18.1
Wes Unseld	79	3085	421	854	.493	149	212	.703	1260	347	168	0	991	12.5
Mike Davis	13	283	50	118	.424	23	25	.920	35	19	45	4	123	9.5
Rich Rinaldi	33	646	116	284	.408	48	64	.750	68	48	40	0	280	8.5
Flynn Robinson (Tot)	44	630	133	288	.462	32	39	.821	62	85	71	0	298	6.8
Flynn Robinson (Balt)	38	583	119	260	.458	26	31	.839	55	77	60	0	264	6.9
Kevin Porter	71	1217	205	451	.455	62	101	.614	72	237	206	5	472	6.6
Stan Love	72	995	190	436	.436	79	100	.790	300	46	175	0	459	6.4
Dave Stallworth	73	1217	180	435	.414	78	101	.772	236	112	139	1	438	6.0
John Tresvant	55	541	85	182	.467	41	59	.695	156	33	101	0	211	3.8
Tom Patterson	23	92	21	49	.429	13	16	.813	22	3	18	0	55	2.4
Terry Driscoll	1	5	0	1	.000	0	0	.000	3	0	1	0	0	0.0

Last year in Baltimore this team won its division title with a 52-30 record. Now, in Largo, Md., which is nearer to Washington and which has the lure of a new, 19,000-seat arena called Capital Centre, the team might slip to second.

There are still the central characters, of course, such as 6-8 Wes Unseld, 6-9 Elvin Hayes, 6-4 Phil Chenier, 6-3 Mike Riordan and 6-2 Archie Clark. But it seems that Unseld and Clark are ready to slip, that Riordan is neither here nor there as a forward-guard, that Chenier will soon be the star on a team without leadership and that Hayes, who could supply that spark and leadership, simply won't.

As a result, new head coach K.C. Jones (who left the ABA's San Diego Conquistadors) might watch the team slump.

Clark, Chenier and Hayes were the scorers, Chenier coming on early in the season (while Clark was still a holdout, as he was for the first 43 games) and then late. But he totally collapsed in the playoffs against New York, when a good series from him could have won it.

Clark is that herky-jerky guard with the great moves, but his shooting suffered. His defense? Well, he's not in the size class with many of today's younger guards, and that has become more apparent.

Unseld is the plodding, foot-ball-player body whose rebounding is his strong—some say only—suit. No one is better at whipping out the outlet pass. He is

the trigger to the Bullets' fast-break offense. But he almost doesn't score at all, and when the others are busy missing, it's a problem.

Hayes is the enigma. He came to Houston with his rich promise and All-America credentials and scored almost at will for a losing team. Then he was traded to Baltimore for forward Jack Marin and he changed.

He became a "team player" and he was able to fit in with Unseld when both are natural centers and neither is a natural forward. But something was missing. He had games in which he was incredible, showing all the flash and brilliance

that had marked him as one of the very special ones since college.

But he didn't change the chemistry of the team, and some say he never will because he is, after all, an individual player.

So that is what K.C. has to deal with, a team of stars. The bench might supply some relief, from such as guards Kevin Porter and Rich Rinaldi, forwards Stan Love, Dave Stallworth and John Tresvant and rookies Nick Weatherspoon, 6-7 from Illinois, and Louis Nelson, 6-3 from Washington.

Trouble is on the way. Whether it arrives this season or next is the more pressing question.

Predicted Finish: 2nd



Mike Riordan

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an end to your weakness and shame. Write now for free information—you'll be so happy you did! After all, you have nothing to lose but your weakness!

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CLEVELAND CAVALIERS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Austin Carr	82	3097	702	1575	.446	281	342	.822	369	279	185	1	1685	20.5
Lenny Wilkens	75	2973	572	1275	.449	394	476	.828	346	628	221	2	1538	20.5
John Johnson	82	2815	492	1143	.430	199	271	.734	552	309	246	3	1183	14.4
Rick Roberson	62	2127	307	709	.433	167	290	.576	693	134	249	5	781	12.6
Dwight Davis	81	2151	293	748	.392	176	222	.793	563	118	297	5	762	9.4
Bobby Smith	73	1068	268	603	.444	64	81	.790	199	108	80	0	600	8.2
Charlie Davis	6	86	20	41	.488	4	7	.571	5	10	20	1	44	7.3
Barry Clemens	72	1119	209	405	.516	53	68	.779	211	115	136	0	471	6.5
Jim Clemons	80	1392	192	423	.454	75	101	.743	167	205	108	0	459	5.7
Cornell Warner (Tot)	72	1370	174	421	.413	59	90	.656	522	72	178	3	407	5.7
Cornell Warner (Clev)	68	1323	166	404	.411	58	88	.659	507	66	172	3	390	5.7
John Warren	40	290	54	111	.486	18	19	.947	42	34	45	0	126	3.2
Walt Wesley	12	110	14	47	.298	8	12	.667	38	7	21	0	36	3.0
Steve Patterson	62	710	71	198	.359	34	65	.523	228	51	79	1	176	2.8



Lenny Wilkens



Austin Carr

When Bill Fitch took over as coach of the expansion Cavs, he spent the first year making jokes. He quickly became the toast of the NBA and his team even more quickly became the doormat.

Then he began to make fewer and fewer jokes, better and better moves and now, as the team approaches its fourth season, it could almost be labeled as competitive with any other.

Why?

Well, Fitch traded for old Lenny Wilkens last year, but instead of giving out to age Wilkens scored 20.6 points per game, averaged 8.4 assists and tied together a lot of "maybe" athletes.

He traded starting forward John Johnson and center Rick Roberson to Portland and came up with a No. 1 draft choice which he used to select 6-8 forward-center

Jim Brewer of Minnesota, who should play right away, probably at center.

That means the forwards will be Dwight Davis and . . . well, for the moment, there are such as Barry Clemons, Cornell Warner, Steve Patterson and rookie James Lister.

The other guard, of course, is Austin Carr, a 20.5 scorer who, with Wilkens' help, will become one of the NBA's best.

Other rookies who should help are Allan Hornyak of Ohio State and 6-11 center Luke Witte, Hornyak's teammate with the Buckeyes who has the strength but not the mobility. Yet he could improve.

Brewer seems to be carrying an inordinately heavy burden for one so tender in years. He is a small center, as he would be a big forward. He has the agility and the

scoring touch and certainly the rebounding power, but it remains to be seen whether that rebounding power is as vital against Abdul-Jabbar and Chamberlain and Thurmond as it was against skinny college kids.

Another tough question is Wilkens, who will be asked, at the age of 36, to go through another gruelling NBA season. He might or might not be able to do it, and if the answer is no then who will be the other guard? Hornyak? Jim Clemons? John Warren? No one knows, but the only thing to know is that it would be a long drop down in class from Lenny.

Brewer . . . Wilkens . . . Carr . . . they are the three top men. And all three must have top seasons to make the Cavaliers significantly better.

Predicted Finish: 3rd

HOUSTON ROCKETS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	FT Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg Pts.
Rudy Tomjanovich	81	2972	655	1371	.478	250	335	.746	938	178	225	1	1560	19.3
Jack Marin	81	3019	624	1334	.468	248	392	.849	499	291	247	4	1496	18.5
Jimmy Walker	81	3079	605	1301	.465	244	276	.884	268	442	207	0	1454	18.0
Mike Newlin	82	2658	534	1206	.443	327	369	.886	340	409	301	5	1395	17.0
Calvin Murphy	77	1697	381	820	.465	239	269	.888	149	262	211	3	1001	13.0
Otto Moore	82	2712	418	859	.487	127	211	.602	868	167	239	4	963	11.7
Don Smith	48	900	149	375	.397	119	162	.735	304	53	108	2	417	8.7
Cliff Meely	82	1694	268	657	.408	92	137	.672	496	91	263	6	628	7.7
Paul McCracken	24	305	44	89	.494	23	39	.590	51	17	32	0	111	4.6
Stan McKenzie (Tot)	33	294	48	119	.403	30	37	.811	55	23	43	1	126	3.8
Stan McKenzie (Hou)	26	187	35	83	.422	16	21	.762	34	15	28	0	86	3.3
Greg Smith	4	41	5	16	.313	0	0	.000	8	5	8	0	10	2.5
George Johnson	19	169	20	39	.513	3	4	.750	45	3	33	0	43	2.3
Eric McWilliams	44	245	34	98	.347	18	37	.486	60	5	46	0	86	2.0
Dick Gibbs	1	2	0	1	.000	0	0	.000	0	1	1	0	0	0.0



Jack Marin battles the Knicks.

One of those nondescript teams that defies analysis, the Rockets should be better. Their offense is no problem, since they led the league in scoring last season and haven't lost any of their top guns.

Returning are Jimmy Walker, Rudy Tomjanovich, Cal Murphy, Mike Newlin, Jack Marin and Otto Moore. But with all those points the problem became two-sided—the Rockets had no difficulty scoring, but neither did the opposition, and Houston finished 16th (out of 17) in team defense.

So what will coach Johnny Egan do? First of all, he'll have a full season to do it in, since he replaced Tex Winter in January. Second, he'll go for a defensive concept much like Red Holzman's in New York. Egan was a superlative defensive player, and he has shown an ability to coach what he knows.

The starters should be much the same, with the possible exception of No. 1 draft pick Ed Ratleff, a guard-forward from Long Beach State taken as the sixth college se-

nior claimed.

Ratleff is 6-6, and should he win a job the Rockets might well have the Mutt-and-Jeff backcourt of the NBA—6-6 Ratleff and 5-9 Murphy. But that would mean sitting down or relocating Newlin or Walker. Newlin, a husky kid, could be one of the smallish forwards currently in vogue.

Center is not quite a weak spot, nor is it a strength. Moore (he's 6-10, scored 11.7 points) and Don Smith (he's smaller, at 6-8, but better all-around) alternated in the pivot. Egan could use one good man but still have to make do with his pair of maybes.

Marin (18.5 points) fits right in with Egan's hurry-up style of offense. He's a deadly shooting threat from almost anywhere, as well as far quicker than a 6-7 man should be. Defense? Maybe, just fine. Tomjanovich is the 6-9 wonderkind who finally began to show some of the potential he had in college, when he became a No. 1 pick for the then-San Diego Rockets. He'll be a fixture at forward, too.

So it's Ratleff and Murphy and Walker and Newlin fighting for two guard positions, with the losers, in all likelihood, confined to the bench for spot duty or swing duty as forwards, too.

Too bad Egan isn't deep at center. Then again, if the Rockets had a superior center Egan probably wouldn't have this job. Winter wouldn't have been fired.

Predicted Finish: 4th

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

LOS ANGELES LAKERS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Gail Goodrich	76	2697	750	1615	.464	314	374	.840	263	332	193	1	1814	23.9
Jerry West	69	2460	618	1291	.479	339	421	.805	289	607	138	0	1575	22.8
Jim McMillian	81	2953	655	1431	.458	223	264	.845	447	221	176	0	1533	18.9
Hap Hairston	28	939	158	328	.482	140	178	.787	370	68	77	0	456	16.3
Wilt Chamberlain	82	3542	426	586	.727	232	455	.510	1526	365	191	0	1084	13.2
Bill Bridges (Tot)	82	2867	333	722	.461	179	255	.702	904	219	296	3	845	10.3
Bill Bridges (L.A.)	72	2491	286	597	.479	133	190	.700	782	196	261	3	705	9.8
Keith Erickson	76	1920	299	696	.430	89	110	.809	337	242	190	3	687	9.0
Pat Riley	55	801	167	390	.428	65	82	.793	65	81	126	0	399	7.3
Jim Price	59	828	158	359	.440	60	73	.822	115	97	119	1	376	6.4
Flynn Robinson	6	47	14	28	.500	6	8	.750	7	8	11	0	34	5.7
Mel Counts (Tot)	66	658	132	294	.449	39	58	.672	253	65	106	1	303	4.6
Mel Counts (L.A.)	59	611	127	278	.457	39	58	.672	237	62	98	1	293	5.0
Travis Grant	33	153	51	116	.440	23	26	.885	52	7	19	0	125	3.8
Leroy Ellis	10	156	11	40	.275	4	5	.800	33	3	13	0	26	2.6
John Trapp	5	35	3	12	.250	7	10	.700	14	2	10	0	13	2.6



Wilt Chamberlain

They're getting old, but they haven't lost any of their class and, once again, should be at or near the top of the league.

They are, of course, the Los Angeles Lakers.

Old? Wilt Chamberlain is the center and he's 37. Jerry West is one of the guards and he's 35. Gail Goodrich, the other guard, is 31. Happy Hairston is coming off a knee operation and he's 32.

But that doesn't seem to matter. Wilt might be able to play forever and West is on the second year of his contract and Goodrich looks like he's 12 years old and if Hairston's determination is any guideline, he'll play harder than ever.

That leaves forward Jim McMillian, a "baby" at 26, and forward Bill Bridges, who was taken in trade from Philadelphia when Hairston and his knee ligaments parted company. Bridges is 34, but he won't have to play another full season. However, he could.

This is the 60-22 team that got to the NBA final round last season before being chewed up by the team defense of the New York Knicks in five ridiculous games.

Coach Bill Sharman feels the team is capable of winning it all, says so and then explains that the

Lakers were not beaten, simply outplayed, by the Knicks. There is, in his mind, a world of difference. In a rematch, he feels his team knows all the tricks now and would win. He does have precedent for making such statement—the year before it was Los Angeles whipping the Knicks in five games for the NBA championship.

Chamberlain set 18 NBA records for career performance last year, and seems intent on owning them all before he retires



Bill Bridges



Jerry West



Gail Goodrich

to his million-dollar house on a California mountain. He also set a one-season field goal percentage record, making 70 per cent of his shots. And on defense, he's still No. 1, despite Abdul-Jabbar.

Rebounding? No one can touch him. He's in a class by himself.

West is a prolific scorer, one of the best defensive guards in history and immune to such things as pain, pressure or defeat. Goodrich, a mere six-footer, is a flitting, darting, whirling dervish who gets

through for layups and who annoys the bigger players with his great quickness.

McMillian is a beauty, 6-5 and agile, skilled enough to play guard, strong enough to be a forward and filled with the New York City playground moves to work free for shots. And he's a most deadly shooter.

Which leaves the choice of Hairston or Bridges (it'll be Happy, if he's well) and a bench that is filled with ability. There is seven-foot

forward Mel Counts, 6-8 Travis Grant, No. 1 draft pick Kermit Washington and a raft of "almosts" like Keith Erickson and Pat Riley.

Oh, yes. There is a guard named Jimmy Price. If Goodrich should slip or if West should suddenly age, this kid could be super.

But right now he has no choice but to sit on the bench. It is the way it is when you are a Los Angeles Laker.

Predicted Finish: 1st

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Rick Barry	82	3075	737	1630	.452	358	397	.902	728	399	245	2	1832	22.3
Jeff Mullins	81	3005	651	1321	.493	143	172	.831	363	337	201	2	1445	17.8
Nate Thurmond	79	3419	517	1159	.446	315	439	.718	1349	280	240	2	1349	17.1
Cazzie Russell	80	2429	541	1182	.458	172	199	.864	350	187	171	0	1254	15.7
Jim Barnett	82	2215	394	844	.467	183	217	.843	255	301	150	1	971	11.8
Joe Ellis	74	1054	199	487	.409	69	93	.742	282	88	143	2	467	6.3
Clyde Lee	66	1476	170	365	.466	74	131	.565	598	34	183	5	414	6.3
Ron Williams	73	1016	180	409	.440	75	83	.904	81	114	108	0	435	6.0
Charlie Johnson	70	887	171	400	.428	33	46	.717	132	118	105	0	375	5.4
M. Abdul-Rahman (Tot)	55	763	107	256	.418	47	57	.825	88	129	110	1	261	4.7
M. Abdul-Rahman (G.S.)	46	629	82	196	.418	44	51	.863	78	112	91	1	208	4.5
Bob Portman	32	176	32	70	.457	20	26	.769	51	7	16	0	84	2.6
George Johnson	56	349	41	100	.410	7	17	.412	138	8	40	0	89	1.6



Nate Thurmond

The team that shocked the Milwaukee Bucks in the first round of the playoffs is not a one-shot outfit.

Indeed, the Warriors figure to be stronger, now that Rick Barry has had a year and is once-again familiar with his teammates, and they with him.

It was Barry's first season in the NBA after five in the ABA, and the one-time NBA scoring champion averaged 22.3 points per game, showed improvement in both rebounding and play-making and cemented his status as one of the top all-around forwards in the game—right up there with John Havlicek, Dave DeBusschere, Spencer Haywood, Sidney Wicks, Julius Erving and Connie Hawkins.

With Barry, the Warriors have Nate Thurmond, who is not the best rebounding center in the league (Chamberlain is) nor the best scoring center (Abdul-Jabbar is) but who is second to both of them, perhaps making himself, thereby, the best all-around center.

Nate is aging (he's 32) but he's more concerned with his legs than his years. He has had knee problems, underwent surgery twice and might begin to think about retiring if the frustration of second-place finishes continues. But he's back this season, maybe to end the frustration.

The Warriors are coached by Al Attles, one of the sharper young minds in the game, and it was his successful platooning that took the Golden Staters to their 47-35 record. But there were holes; and there still are. If Alvin can find some more solutions, watch out.

The other forward, for instance, is Clyde Lee. He is one of the best rebounding forwards in the game and fits in nicely for Attles since Barry is more of a shooter. But Clyde wants to score, too. It's just that he doesn't have the ball very frequently.

The one guard is Jeff Mullins,

who can score in bundles but who is now more important as a feeder and ball-handler. He managed to average 17.8 ppg, but he's had higher figures than that.

The other guard is Jim Barnett (11.8 points) who is, to say the least, erratic. If he straightens out, he could be another star. Yet there is a decided danger in too many stars, especially with just one ball.

The proper handling of Cazzie Russell (15.7 ppg) is key to any team success. He is a pure shooter who is not at all familiar with the art of defense. So he must be a spot player—usually to spell Bar-

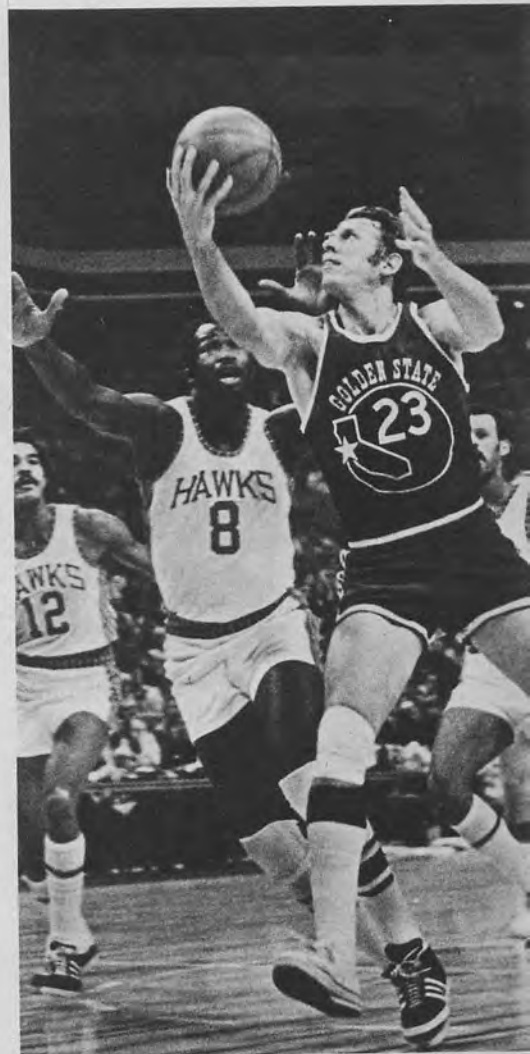
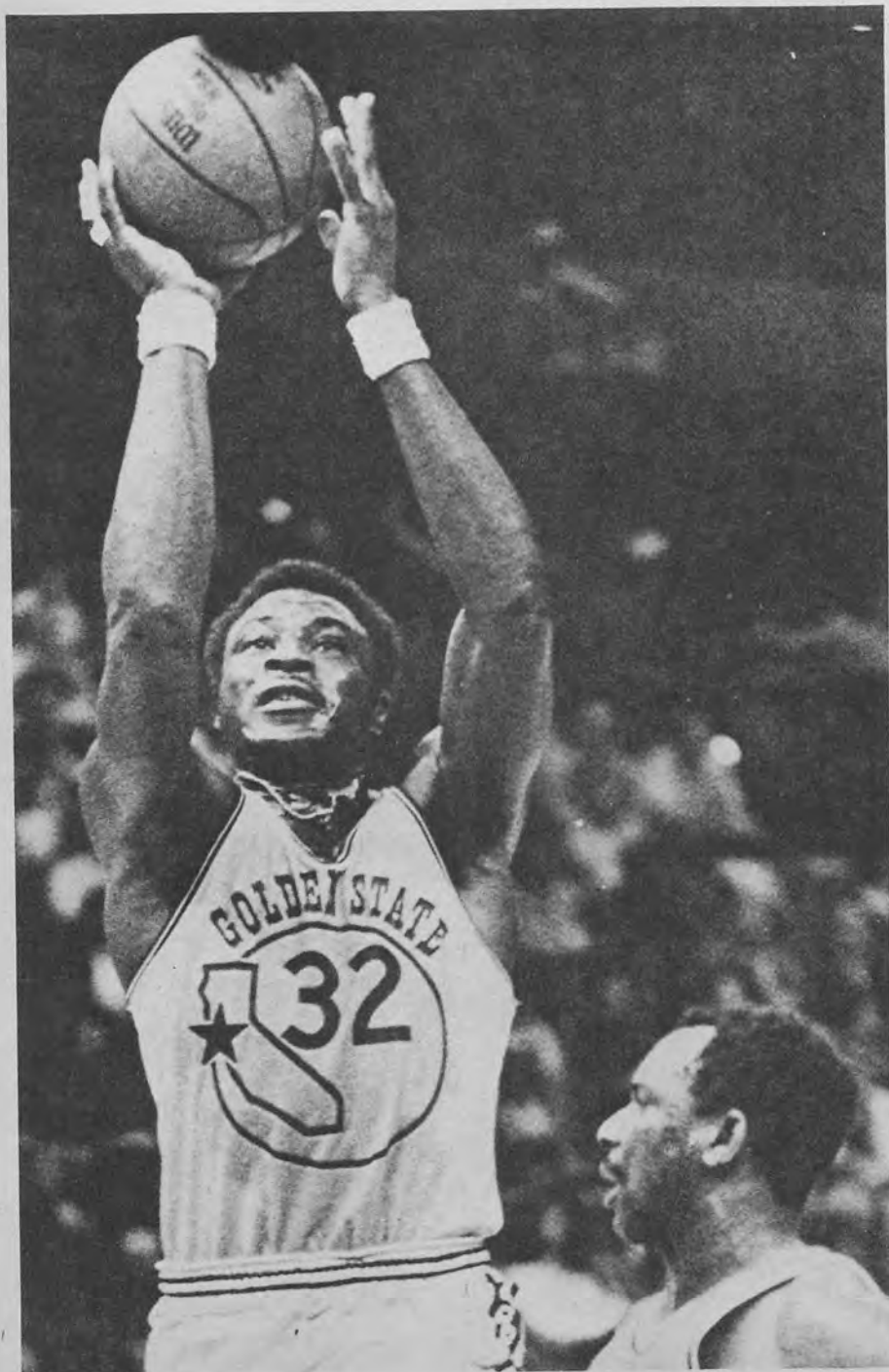
ry—since his shooting can rejuvenate a sinking team almost immediately.

So there are questions. Rookies Kevin Joyce (if he signs) and 6-7 Derrick Dickey could help, but basically this is a veteran club and its future, for the present, is predicated on the veterans playing well.

With Barry and Thurmond (as with Abdul-Jabbar and Oscar) the team is dangerous at any time. But on man-for-man matchups, the other three quite often suffer.

Defense must be improved, and consistency must be attained.

Predicted Finish: 2nd



Jeff Mullins

Cazzie Russell

PHOENIX SUNS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	FG Pct.	FT	FTA	FT Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Charlie Scott	81	3062	806	1809	.446	436	556	.784	342	495	306	5	2048	25.3
Neal Walk	81	3114	678	1455	.466	279	355	.786	1006	287	323	11	1635	20.2
Dick Van Arsdale	81	2979	532	1118	.476	426	496	.859	326	268	221	2	1490	18.4
Connie Hawkins	75	2768	441	920	.479	322	404	.797	641	304	229	5	1204	16.1
Clem Haskins	77	1581	339	731	.464	130	156	.833	173	203	143	2	808	10.5
Gus Johnson	21	417	69	181	.381	25	36	.694	136	31	55	0	163	7.8
Dennis Layton	65	990	187	434	.431	90	119	.756	77	139	127	2	464	7.1
Lamar Green	80	2048	224	520	.431	89	118	.754	746	89	263	10	537	6.7
Corky Calhoun	82	2025	211	450	.469	71	96	.740	338	76	214	2	493	6.0
Walt Wesley (Tot)	57	474	77	202	.381	26	46	.565	151	31	77	1	180	3.2
Walt Wesley (Phoe)	45	364	63	155	.406	18	34	.529	113	24	56	1	144	3.2
Scott English	29	196	36	93	.387	21	29	.724	44	15	38	0	93	3.2
Paul Stovall	25	211	26	76	.342	24	38	.632	61	13	37	0	76	3.0

There was trouble out in the badlands. There was Charlie Scott, who wanted the ball 80 per cent of the time, and there was Connie Hawkins, who wanted it the other 80 per cent of the time.

Clearly, something had to give. Coach Butch van Breda Kolff did. He was fired by general manager Jerry Colangelo, who replaced van Breda Kolff with general-manager-and-suddenly-head-coach Jerry Colangelo.

The move put the Suns third in their division with a 38-44 mark, which wasn't at all bad considering the internal difficulties. Now general manager Colangelo is back doing the general managing and Oklahoma University coach Jack MacLeod is the new coach. He should do well, since he constantly came up a winner in the football-oriented Big Eight school.

So what does he have? He has Scott (25.3 ppg and 342 assists) and Dick Van Arsdale (18.4 points and 326 assists) at guards. That's nice. On the bench, he also has Dennis "Moe" Layton and Clem Haskins, two who may find reason to start at one time or another.

At the forwards? He has Hawkins, who dipped to 16.1 ppg but who is liable to explode for 50 on any given night. If the Hawk wants to play, he'll play. But there was some rumor-mongering that Colangelo, once again able to play at general manager, was trying to peddle him away. Corky Calhoun and Lamar Green shared the other spot last season and may both give way to rookie (and top draft pick) Mike Bantom of St. Joseph's, a 6-9 leaper with a soft shooting touch.

Center should be a problem but usually isn't, since the man nobody absolutely respects usually comes up with enough effort to surprise all of them. His name is Neal Walk, a hard-working man who achieved career highs in 20.2 ppg and 1,006 rebounds, as well as shot-blocking, intimidation and some good, old-fashioned defense.

Walk may, indeed, be the central figure in any Sun revival. Scott is a known quality, a 6-5 jumper who handles the ball beautifully, who has some (but not a lot of) difficulty with defense, but whose main mission in life is to score, score, score.

That's why Hawkins is unhappy. He, too, would have no trouble dominating the team's offense, but

he, too, has some problems with defense and is a forward, not a guard. Colangelo has clearly made a choice: the younger, more capable Scott for the aging, more electrifying but now less capable Hawkins.

Van Arsdale, as his twin Tom, with the Kings, is a constant hustler, a quality player at 6-5 who can do many things. Bantom, Green or Calhoun will be the other forward, and it will all revolve around Walk.

Scott needs the ball and Scott needs Walk to get it. The Suns need inside strength, and that must come from Walk.

Rebounding . . . defense . . . inside scoring . . . Neal Walk.

The rest is there, in ample doses.

Predicted Finish: 3rd



Connie Hawkins



Dick Van Arsdale

SEATTLE SUPERSONICS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Spencer Haywood	77	3259	889	1868	.476	473	564	.839	995	196	213	2	2251	29.2
Dick Snyder	82	3060	473	1022	.463	186	216	.861	323	311	216	2	1132	13.8
Fred Brown	79	2320	471	1035	.455	121	148	.818	318	438	226	5	1063	13.5
John Brisker	70	1633	352	809	.435	194	236	.822	319	150	169	1	898	12.8
Jim Fox	74	2439	316	613	.515	214	265	.808	827	176	239	6	846	11.4
Butch Beard	73	1403	191	435	.439	100	140	.714	174	247	139	0	482	6.6
Lee Winfield	53	1061	143	332	.431	62	108	.574	126	186	92	3	348	6.6
Bud Stallworth	77	1225	198	522	.379	86	114	.754	225	58	138	0	482	6.3
Jim McDaniels	68	1095	154	386	.399	70	100	.700	345	78	140	4	378	5.6
Kennedy McIntosh (Tot)	59	1138	115	341	.337	40	67	.597	231	54	102	1	270	4.6
Kennedy McIntosh (Sea)	56	1105	107	328	.326	40	65	.615	222	53	98	1	254	4.5
Joby Wright	77	931	133	278	.478	37	89	.416	218	36	164	0	303	3.9
Garfield Heard	3	17	4	9	.444	1	1	1.000	6	2	4	0	9	3.0
Charlie Dudley	12	99	10	23	.435	14	16	.875	6	16	15	0	34	2.8



Spencer Haywood



John Brisker

There is the story about a man who owned a basketball team in the NBA and wasn't making any money. His team wasn't winning, either, but that is not always a direct connection with finances (the New York Mets, New York Islanders, Atlanta Flames, etc.).

So he fired his coach, which isn't unusual at all, and he hired the biggest basketball name out of basketball in the country, Bill Russell.

Now he will make a lot of money (season ticket sales are already skyrocketing since Russell's hiring) and, coincidentally, he may do some winning, too.

The last time Russell coached a team it was 1969 and it was in Boston and he won the NBA championship. Of course, he played for it, too, before that, and built a 12-year record that will be hard for anyone to match.

So now the demanding one is ready. "We'll win if the players survive training camp," says Bill,

the disciplinarian.

No man in the country is better equipped to work with a moody but immensely talented forward who is about to be converted to center. The kid is Spencer Haywood, a 29.2 scorer last year and an All-Star forward.

"He's my center, no one else, and he'll be something special," says Russell.

The SuperSonics are filled with potential stars elsewhere, too. There is 7-0 Jim McDaniels, who to now has been a disappointing forward. There is 6-5 John Brisker, who should be a whale of a sub forward. There is young Bud Stallworth, a 6-6 forward with all the moves. He was a rookie last year, and was on all the scouts' lists as a "can't miss" star.

Starters, then, should be Haywood in the middle, one of those new "small centers" at 6-9; McDaniels and Stallworth at forwards; and Fred Brown and Dick Snyder at guards, though Russell

made a trade to land Abdul Rahman (A.K.A. Walt Hazzard) from Golden State. He has years of poise, which the Sonics clearly need, and he knows Russell's ways.

But the Sonics were 26-56 last season, ahead of only hapless Portland in the division. Can Russell's addition make that much difference?

Yes.

He's going to get McDaniels, Brisker and Haywood to stop moping and hoping and start working harder. He's going to insert new spirit into the team's psyche. He's going to be tough and relentless and either the players will respond or they won't play at all.

Russell learned from Red Auerbach. Of course, Red was a lucky man to have such a center as Bill Russell. But Russell, too, is a lucky man. He'll have Spencer Haywood at center, and this could, indeed, be the start of something big.

Predicted Finish: 4th

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Geoff Petrie	79	3134	836	1801	.464	298	383	.778	273	350	163	2	1970	24.9
Sidney Wicks	80	3152	761	1684	.452	384	531	.723	870	440	253	3	1906	23.8
Lloyd Neal	82	2723	455	921	.494	187	293	.638	967	146	305	6	1097	13.4
Ollie Johnson	78	2138	308	620	.497	156	206	.757	417	200	166	0	772	9.9
Charlie Davis (Tot)	75	1419	263	631	.417	130	168	.774	116	185	194	7	656	8.7
Charlie Davis (Port)	69	1333	243	590	.412	126	161	.783	111	175	174	6	612	8.9
Greg Smith (Tot)	76	1610	234	485	.482	75	128	.586	383	122	218	8	543	7.1
Greg Smith (Port)	72	1569	229	469	.488	75	128	.586	375	117	210	8	533	7.4
Rick Adelman	76	1822	214	525	.408	73	102	.716	157	294	155	2	501	6.6
Terry Dischinger	63	970	161	338	.476	64	96	.667	190	103	125	1	386	6.1
Larry Steele	66	1301	159	329	.483	71	89	.798	154	156	181	4	389	5.9
Stan McKenzie	7	107	13	36	.361	14	16	.875	21	8	15	1	40	5.7
Dave Wohl	22	393	47	114	.412	24	33	.727	20	68	45	0	118	5.4
LaRue Martin	77	996	145	366	.396	50	77	.649	358	42	162	0	340	4.4
Bill Smith	8	43	9	15	.600	5	8	.625	8	1	8	0	23	2.9

Jack McCloskey is a most capable coach. He did wondrous things at St. Joseph's in Philadelphia and then he took the job in Portland, where the things he has done have not been the least bit wondrous.

But there's hope, there's hope. The players know Jack's philosophies now, and he knows the players a lot better.

And, to those ends, the players will be a lot better, too.

McCloskey traded away his No. 1 draft pick to Cleveland for center Rick Roberson, forward John Johnson and the Cavaliers' No. 1 pick. Now McCloskey still has his two All-Stars—guard Geoff Petrie, a 24.9 scorer, and forward Sidney Wicks, 23.8—plus a lot of strong kids who could combine to make this Portland's best team since it became an expansion joke in 1970.

LaRue Martin, last year's No. 1 draft choice from Chicago Loyola (even he says he was surprised) was a bomb, but he is improving and, at 6-11, could finally become the first-team center.

That would make Roberson a sub, but he's strong and hard-working and a rugged rebounder, the ideal kind of bench man. But what happens to Lloyd Neal, who at 6-7 played center and did remarkably well last year as a rookie?

Neal will be thrown in the pot along with Roberson and Martin. There are those who say Roberson will start, with Martin his sub and Neal a forward (starter or sub).

The guards will be Petrie and Rick Adelman, both qualified to



Geoff Petrie

play and Petrie on the brink of becoming one of those superstars.

McCloskey has pretty good depth, too, with such as guard Charlie Davis, forwards Ollie Johnson, Greg Smith and old pro Terry Dischinger.

But the two most important players are Petrie and Wicks, and there was some thought that they had trouble "interacting" with one another since both are consumed with the goal of attaining superstar status.

Indeed, the problem of having a superstar guard and a superstar forward is that the guard must bring the ball downcourt and then pass it off to the forward. If Petrie, whose best shot is anywhere up to 30 feet out, passes it off he loses the chance to score. If he doesn't

pass it, Wicks loses the chance to score.

Somehow, McCloskey has to get through, has to instruct in teamwork and the importance of cooperation. He should have more success in dealing with Petrie.

A strictly unconfirmed rumor last spring had the Blazers "cautiously" offering Wicks to a few selected teams in return for another forward. Nothing happened through August, so one must assume the rumor was off-target.

But such events are usually preceded by "wild rumors" and if that was the case, perhaps Wicks and McCloskey had a long talk and solved their problems.

If so, the Sonics could make many problems for the opposition.

Predicted Finish: 5th



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Why??? Because KUNG FU is as deadly as it is simple. And it works for anyone.* Other forms of self defense like Judo or Karate require something special such as strength, speed, etc., to say nothing of endless practice. A judo Black Belt Master.

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*We do not claim that physically handicapped or other disadvantaged persons can perform these feats. Nor are these techniques claimed to be effective against anyone armed with a loaded gun.

Midwest Division

CHICAGO BULLS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	DQ	Tot Pts.	Avg Pts.
Bob Love	82	3033	774	1794	.431	347	421	.824	532	119	240	1	1895	23.1
Chet Walker	79	2455	597	1248	.478	376	452	.832	395	179	166	1	1570	19.9
Norm Van Lier	80	2882	474	1064	.445	166	211	.787	438	567	269	5	1114	13.9
Garfield Heard (Tot)	81	1552	350	824	.425	116	178	.652	453	60	171	1	816	10.1
Garfield Heard (Chi)	78	1535	346	815	.425	115	177	.650	447	58	167	1	807	10.3
Jerry Sloan	69	2412	301	733	.411	94	133	.707	475	151	235	5	696	10.1
Bob Weiss	82	2086	279	655	.426	159	189	.841	148	295	151	1	717	8.7
Cliff Ray	73	2009	254	516	.492	117	189	.619	797	271	232	5	625	8.6
Kennedy McIntosh	3	33	8	13	.615	0	2	.000	9	1	4	0	16	5.3
Howard Porter	43	407	98	217	.452	22	29	.759	118	16	52	1	218	5.1
Dennis Awtrey (Tot)	82	1687	146	305	.479	86	153	.562	447	224	234	6	378	4.6
Dennis Awtrey (Chi)	79	1650	143	298	.480	85	149	.570	433	222	226	6	371	4.7
Jim King	65	785	116	263	.441	44	52	.846	76	81	76	0	276	4.2
Tom Boerwinkle	8	176	9	24	.375	12	20	.600	54	40	22	0	30	3.8
Rowland Garrett	35	211	52	118	.441	21	31	.677	61	8	29	0	125	3.6
Frank Russell	23	131	29	77	.377	16	18	.889	17	15	12	0	74	3.2



Jerry Sloan



Norm Van Lier

If the wonders worked by Pat Williams as general manager are lasting enough, the Bulls could do it all this year. But if they still need Pat, they're in trouble. He has gone to put that final piece of sizzle in the Atlanta Hawks, who fired Richie Guerin when they heard Pat might be available.

But the Bulls still have head coach Dick Motta, as fine a technician as the league can offer, and he has assembled a team which has spent the last three years knocking on that proverbial door. This time around they might just kick it in, out of frustration.

In the last three seasons the Bulls have won 159 games. But they have yet to advance past the first round of the playoffs, and they are yet to overhaul the Milwaukee

Jabbar for the division championship. Had they been in another division, who knows what glories they might have already achieved?

Now the team is experienced, poised and still not ancient. Arthritis and bursitis are not problems yet, just mental anguish. And that can be simply alleviated by winning.

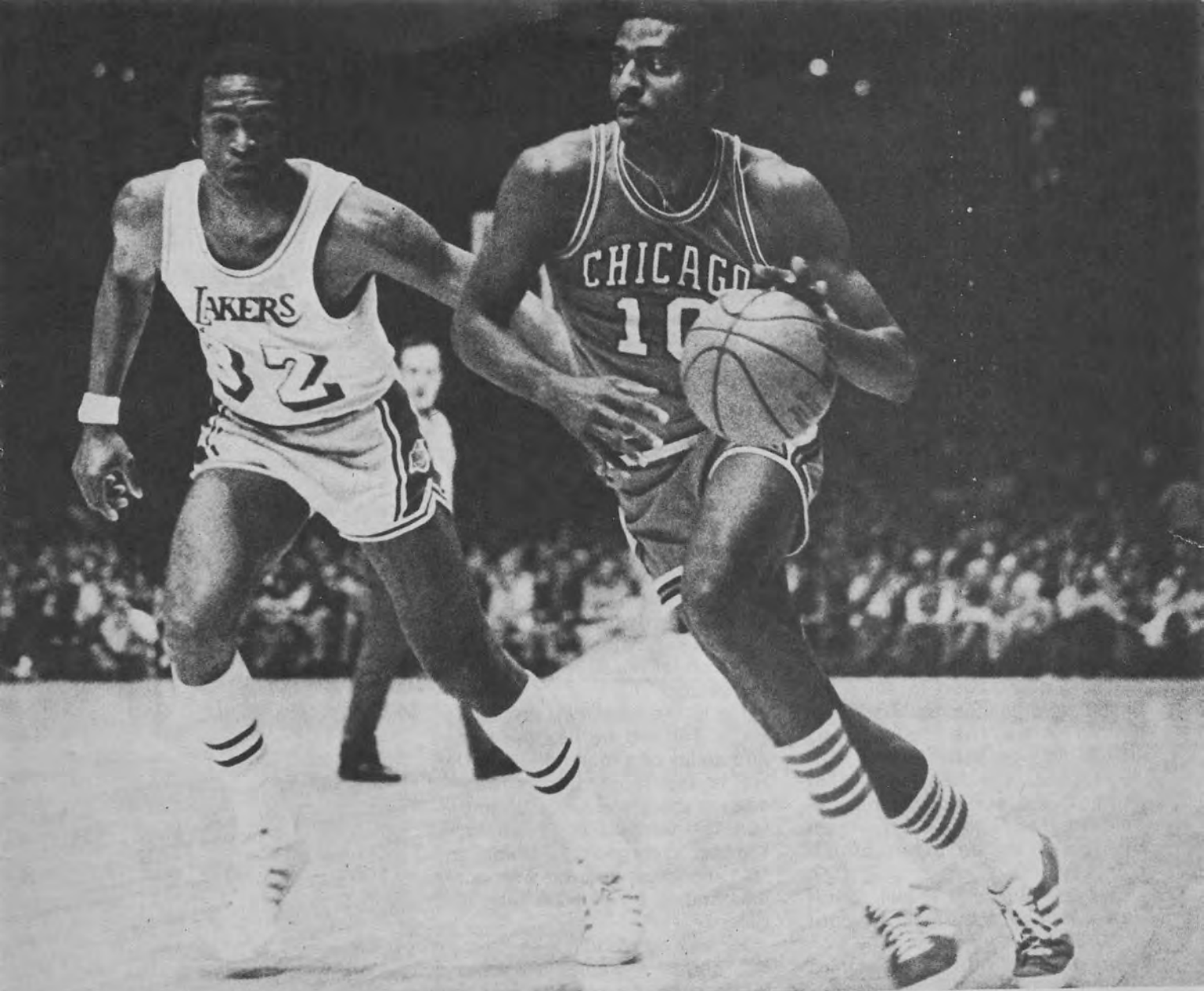
The guards on this team are Norm Van Lier and Jerry Sloan, hustling, hard-nosed, aggressive combatants, plus No. 3 man Bob Weiss, who doesn't look as though he's doing anything right but always manages to go in for the big basket or steal the big dribble.

Forwards? High-scoring Bob Love and high-scoring Chet Walker, aided and abetted by such as

Kevin Porter and rookie Wendell Hudson, of the NIT smash team Alabama.

If a problem exists, it is at center. And it is not because of an absence of center; the only thing wrong with Garfield Heard, Cliff Ray and Tom Boerwinkle (aside from Boerwinkle's knee) is an inability to score. Yet this problem is less acute than it might be, because of Love and Walker.

Love averaged 23 points a game and Walker 19. Heard, more of a forward anyway, gravitated to that position when Ray began to play well. Ray should hold onto the job if Boerwinkle's knee (he missed last season after undergoing surgery) isn't sound, and since Big Tim must carry his 265 pounds to be effective, that knee might be an



Bob Love

underdog.

But it's not a traumatic thought. Ray played outstanding defense and can be backed up by 6-9 Dennis Awtrey, assuming the enigmatic Awtrey doesn't begin to play the way he can and win the job outright.

Top draft choice Kevin Kunnert is a seven-footer from Iowa, and if he signs he should be a pleasant addition. But he won't play right off, which is complimentary to the Bulls. They're ready to play, and if they got more scoring from their center (the team was 14th in offense and a lofty third in defense) Milwaukee had better be extremely careful.

Predicted Finish: 1st



Chet Walker

MILWAUKEE BUCKS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	76	3254	982	1772	.554	328	460	.713	1224	379	208	0	2292	30.2
Bob Dandridge	73	2852	638	1353	.472	198	251	.789	600	207	279	2	1474	20.2
Lucius Allen	80	2693	547	1130	.484	143	200	.715	279	426	188	1	1237	15.5
Oscar Robertson	73	2737	446	983	.454	238	281	.847	360	551	167	0	1130	15.5
Jon McGlocklin	80	1951	351	699	.502	63	73	.863	158	236	119	0	765	9.6
Curtis Perry	67	2094	265	575	.461	83	126	.659	644	123	246	6	613	9.1
Terry Driscoll (Tot)	60	964	140	327	.428	43	62	.694	300	55	144	3	323	5.4
Terry Driscoll (Mil)	59	959	140	326	.429	43	62	.694	297	55	143	3	323	5.5
Mickey Davis	74	1046	152	347	.438	76	92	.826	226	72	119	0	380	5.1
Wali Jones	27	419	59	145	.407	16	18	.889	29	56	39	0	134	5.0
Gary Gregor	9	88	11	33	.333	5	7	.714	32	9	9	0	27	3.0
Russell Lee	46	277	49	127	.386	32	43	.744	43	38	36	0	130	2.8
Dick Cunningham	74	692	64	156	.410	29	50	.580	208	34	94	0	157	2.1
Chuck Terry	67	693	55	162	.340	17	24	.708	145	40	116	1	127	1.9

What is there about the Milwaukee Bucks that gets them so close and, with one exception in recent years, no closer?

It might be the fact that Oscar Robertson is growing old . . . or that the forwards on the team are sub-par . . . or that Lucius Allen has just now begun to show the flashes of brilliance that made him an All-American guard at UCLA . . . or that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the best all-around center in the world of pro basketball, is not enough to carry a team burdened by its other shortcomings.

But the Bucks are still formidable. Indeed, they built a record of 60-33 last season, as they won their division title for the third straight year. But they were eliminated by the Golden State Warriors in the first round of the playoffs—after they had been eliminated in the second round two years ago.

Why? Robertson, for one. He still had a super season, but he is not going to be getting better now, just older. He was around for the final part of the schedule and the first round of the playoffs, however, and he was healthy, besides.

Was it the forwards? They are Bob Dandridge and Curtis Perry, the latter alternating with free agent surprise Terry Driscoll. Dandridge, a whippet-thin 6-6, scored at 20.2, made it to his first All-Star game but, when he has to play defense, he hurts.

Perry and Driscoll are ordinary and would not, for example, be starters on any of the other playoff teams last season.

The other guard, usually, was Allen, who reached career highs in points (15.5 per game) and assists (426) for the season. He had a good season; had he not, Robertson's slippage might have showed even more than it did.

Which leaves us, of course, with the center.

He is the country's top center. He is 7-4 and he has the moves and agility of a man a foot shorter. He is the most dominant force seen in the game since Chamberlain first arrived in Philadelphia. Kareem averaged 30.2 points and 16.1 rebounds and was even more intimidating on defense than ever before.

He was outstanding, as he must be, and the Bucks are always tough when he plays. It was that way when the Los Angeles Dodgers had eight Campfire Girls in the lineup on days when Sandy Koufax pitched. It was that way in 1970 when the New York Jets had to play women and children in the face of countless injuries but were able to use Joe Namath at quarterback.

It is that way with the Bucks, who could use four players from off the street but still be dangerous.

Yet, as Chicago coach Dick Motta said last season: "Without the big guy, that's not a very good team."

What he said was "it's a Portland" but why be nasty?

Rookies with a chance include 6-7 Harry Rogers, a guard-forward from St. Louis University. Top pick Swen Nater signed in the ABA.

Bench strength comes mainly from guard Jon McGlocklin (9.6),

guard-forward Russell Lee, center Dick Cunningham and forwards Mickey Davis and Chuck Terry.

Predicted Finish: 2nd



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

DETROIT PISTONS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	FG Pct.	FT	FTA	FT Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Bob Lanier	81	3150	810	1654	.490	307	397	.773	1205	260	278	4	1927	23.8
Dave Bing	82	3361	692	1545	.448	456	560	.814	298	637	229	1	1840	22.4
Curtis Rowe	81	3009	547	1053	.519	210	327	.642	760	172	191	0	1304	16.1
John Mengelt (Tot)	79	1647	320	651	.492	127	160	.794	181	153	148	0	767	9.7
John Mengelt (Det)	67	1435	294	583	.504	116	141	.823	159	128	124	0	704	10.5
Stu Lantz	51	1603	185	455	.407	120	150	.800	172	138	117	0	490	9.6
Don Admas (Tot)	74	1874	265	678	.391	145	184	.788	441	117	231	2	675	9.1
Don Adams (Det)	70	1798	257	640	.402	138	176	.784	419	112	220	2	652	9.3
Fred Foster	63	1460	243	627	.388	61	87	.701	183	94	150	0	547	8.7
Willie Norwood	79	1282	249	504	.494	154	225	.684	324	56	182	0	652	8.3
Chris Ford	74	1537	208	434	.479	60	93	.645	266	194	133	1	476	6.4
Jim Davis	73	771	131	257	.510	72	114	.632	261	56	126	2	334	4.6
Justus Thigpen	18	99	23	57	.404	0	0	.000	9	8	18	0	46	2.6
Bob Nash	36	169	16	72	.222	11	17	.647	34	16	30	0	43	1.2
Erwin Mueller	21	80	9	31	.290	5	7	.714	14	7	13	0	23	1.1



Bob Lanier

The Detroit Pistons are one of those teams that should be better than the record shows. They are a bit of a mystery. They have the individual talents to be better but they somehow hit those spells of losing that drive coaches batty—or unemployed.

It happened again last season. Earl Lloyd was fired and Ray Scott took over and Detroit did show improvement. The record was 40-42, good for third in the division, and while nothing higher is seen this year, the record could be better.

Scott has the players. He has

center Bob Lanier, for one, a 6-11, 265-pounder with good moves, grace and strength and a shooting touch from the outside as good as Willis Reed's.

Lanier averaged 23.8 points, ninth in the NBA, and rebounded at 14.9. It was a career high figure, and it showed great potential now that he seems finally finished with knee problems.

There is also Dave Bing, one of the NBA's most prolific scorers, at a guard position. The Syracuse flash shot 'em in at a 22.4 average and became a team player, aver-

aging more assists per game than anyone except Kansas City-Omaha's Nate Archibald and Cleveland's Lenny Wilkens.

Bing and Lanier should be the nucleus for an astonishingly good team. This year, finally, it might.

At the other guard spot should be Chris Ford, a 6-4 rookie last season who came from Villanova and needed a year to learn the ropes. He can shoot, handle the ball and pass, and will be the perfect complement to Bing's individual excellence. John Mengelt and Stu Lantz would like to have the job, too, but on ability, Ford may beat them both.

The other forward spot—one is locked up by Curtis Perry, 6-7 and 16.1 scoring—might be shared. There is 6-9½ George Trapp, obtained at great cost a No. 1 draft choice from Atlanta. There is Don Adams, a 9.1 scorer, and Fred Foster (8.7) and Willie Norwood (8.3). One of those, probably Trapp, will start. The rest provide great depth.

Jimmy Davis, who also played for Atlanta once upon a time, is the backup to Lanier. But as in Milwaukee, the sub center is not expected—indeed, not wanted—to spend much time on the floor.

The Pistons ended the season strong. They won the final five and seven of their last nine.

Now Scott wants them to pick it right up. And, with the NBA's year-old playoff formula, they could conceivably finish third and still get to the playoffs. That's going to be Scott's message.

Predicted Finish: 3rd

KANSAS CITY - OMAHA KINGS

	G	Min.	FG	FGA	FG Pct.	FT	FTA	FT Pct.	Rbnd	Asst	PF	Dq	Tot. Pts.	Avg. Pts.
Nate Archibald	80	3681	1028	2106	.488	663	783	.847	223	910	207	2	2719	34.0
John Block (Tot)	73	2041	391	886	.441	300	378	.794	562	113	242	5	1082	14.8
John Block (K.C.-O)	25	483	80	180	.444	64	76	.842	120	19	69	1	224	9.0
Sam Lacey	79	2930	471	994	.474	126	178	.708	933	189	283	6	1068	13.5
Tom Van Arsdale	49	1282	250	547	.457	110	140	.786	173	90	123	1	610	12.4
Nate Williams	80	1979	417	874	.477	106	133	.797	339	128	372	9	940	11.8
Matt Guokas	79	2846	322	565	.570	74	90	.822	245	403	190	0	718	9.1
Don Kojis	77	1240	276	575	.480	106	137	.774	198	80	128	0	658	8.5
Ron Riley	74	1634	273	634	.431	79	116	.681	507	76	226	3	625	8.4
Johnny Green	66	1245	190	317	.599	89	131	.679	361	59	185	7	469	7.1
John Mengelt	12	212	26	68	.382	11	19	.579	22	25	24	0	63	5.3
Mike Ratliff	58	681	98	235	.417	45	84	.536	194	38	111	1	241	4.2
Toby Kimball	67	643	96	220	.436	44	67	.657	191	27	86	2	236	3.5
Dick Gibbs (Tot)	67	735	80	222	.360	47	63	.746	94	62	114	1	207	3.1
Dick Gibbs (K.C.-O)	66	733	80	221	.362	47	63	.746	94	61	113	1	207	3.1



Sam Lacey



Nate Archibald

There is Nate Archibald.

And there is very little else.

That, indeed, is Bob Cousy's pressing problem. How is he to compete with such teams as Milwaukee, Chicago and even Detroit with one star, some "maybe" players and a generally bleak outlook?

One procedure is to use rookies with talent and let that talent work its way to the surface under the intensity of competition. He will try it with such as 6-9 Larry McNeill of Marquette and 6-8 Don Behagen of Minnesota, two muscular, rebounding, good-shooting forwards.

He might do it with 6-3 Mike D'Antoni of Marshall, who seems to be the ideal companion to Archibald in the backcourt. Mike can shoot but doesn't have to in order

to be effective, which means he has a fine passing touch, is a sure ball-handler and knows the game of defense.

But Nate, or "Tiny," is the franchise. He became the first NBA player ever to lead the league in scoring and assists average in the same season. He led the league's scorers with 34 points a game. He was the assists champ with 11.4 per game.

Not only that, but he led the league in minutes played, the first guard to do that in 17 years: had more assists (910) in one season than anyone in history; had the most points (2,719) ever by a guard and the highest scoring average by any guard in the league annals.

Naturally, he was the leading

vote-getter in both the All-Star game and the year-end All-Star team. In 61 of the 82 games he scored more than 30, and hit 50 or more three times as well as 40 or more 18 times.

More? He hit double figures in assists for 14 straight games, a league record.

Okay, so who goes along with the 6-1 (chuckle, chuckle) dynamo, who looks like a kid playing a man's game?

The center is 6-10 Sam Lacey, who has promise. The forwards should be Nate Williams and Ron Riley. Williams, 6-5, has finally come up to the level expected when he graduated Utah State in 1972. Riley, 6-9, has the same year after his graduation (from San Francisco U.). Clearly, both were rookie last year. Hopefully, both will improve.

If not, there are 6-8 Toby Kimball, 39-year-old Johnny Green, a healthy Ken Durrett (6-7 and injured his first two pro years) plus Behagen and McNeill.

Archibald has drawn the fans, and the move the franchise went through from Cincinnati will pay off. But the move Cousy made from a secure college job (Boston College) to return to the pros where he was once the all-time star hasn't worked—just yet. With the improvement of the young ones, the continued excellence of Tiny and the education of Behagen, McNeill and D'Antoni, Cousy could be a winner soon.

Predicted Finish: 4th

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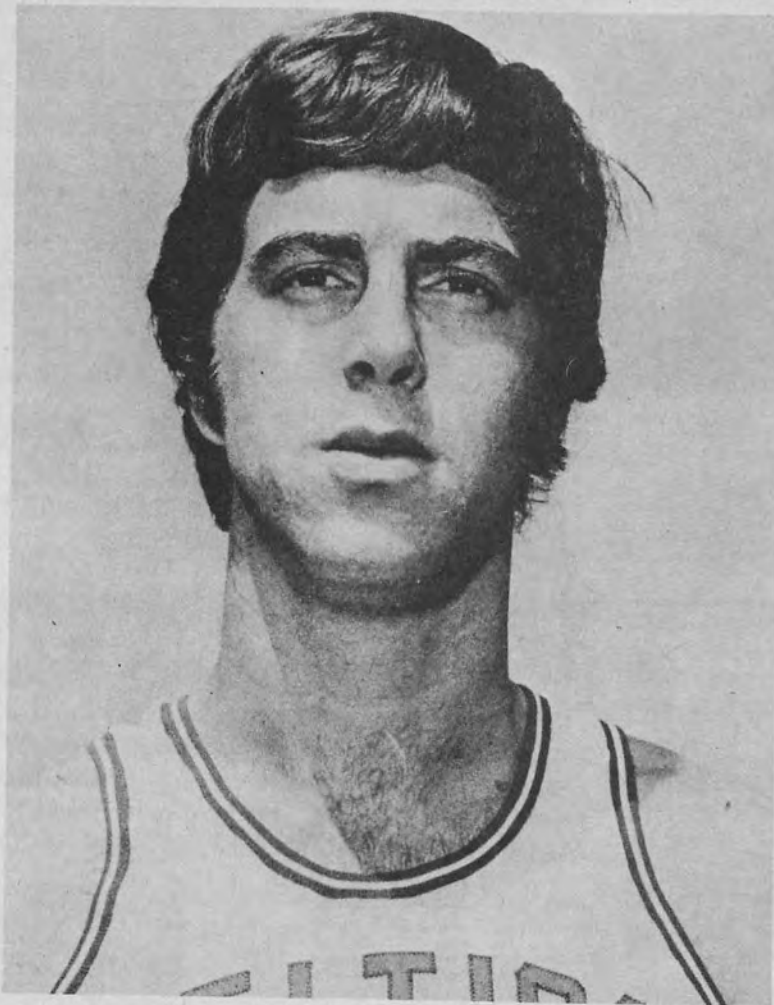
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DAVE COWENS



Man In Perpetual Motion

Sure he loses his temper now and then. And of course he knows that fouling out of a game is not going to help his team. But the fact remains—when he is on the floor, his job is gettin' done. His job is to push, box out, jump, rebound, score baskets and then maybe push some more. He starts the fast break and somehow manages to be part of its end. The job is tough, but Dave Cowens loves it that way.

By Bob Gutkowski

There's something about the Boston Celtics that gives one a feeling that here's a team that doesn't know how to say die. It's a team that seems to be in perpetual motion, even when it's standing still.

They're made of the stuff that

legends are built upon; class, mystique, arrogance and steady performance.

It all seemed to die after Bill Russell departed the premises. All that appeared to be left was a long road of tradition and John Havlicek. So the Celtics nosedived and



"We break for time-outs, but you can hardly talk to Dave. I get high myself during a game, but he is three times higher. I speak right to him, he tries to listen, but he really doesn't hear me."

—Coach Tom Heinsohn

natural forward, he barrels through opposing centers as if they weren't around. He is a naturally tough player who considers basketball more than just a sport. To Dave, it's at once an art, a science and a craft to be molded and formed at his will.

So that Cowens did much more than anyone expected of him, is reflected in the fact that he was voted co-winner of the Rookie of the Year award along with Geoff Petrie three seasons ago.



finished the 1969-70 schedule under duress with a next to last place.

There were two notable additions to that team, however, and Dave Cowens was one of those pleasant finds. The 6-9 Cowens, fresh off the campus of Florida State University, brought the beleaguered Celtics back into forward motion.

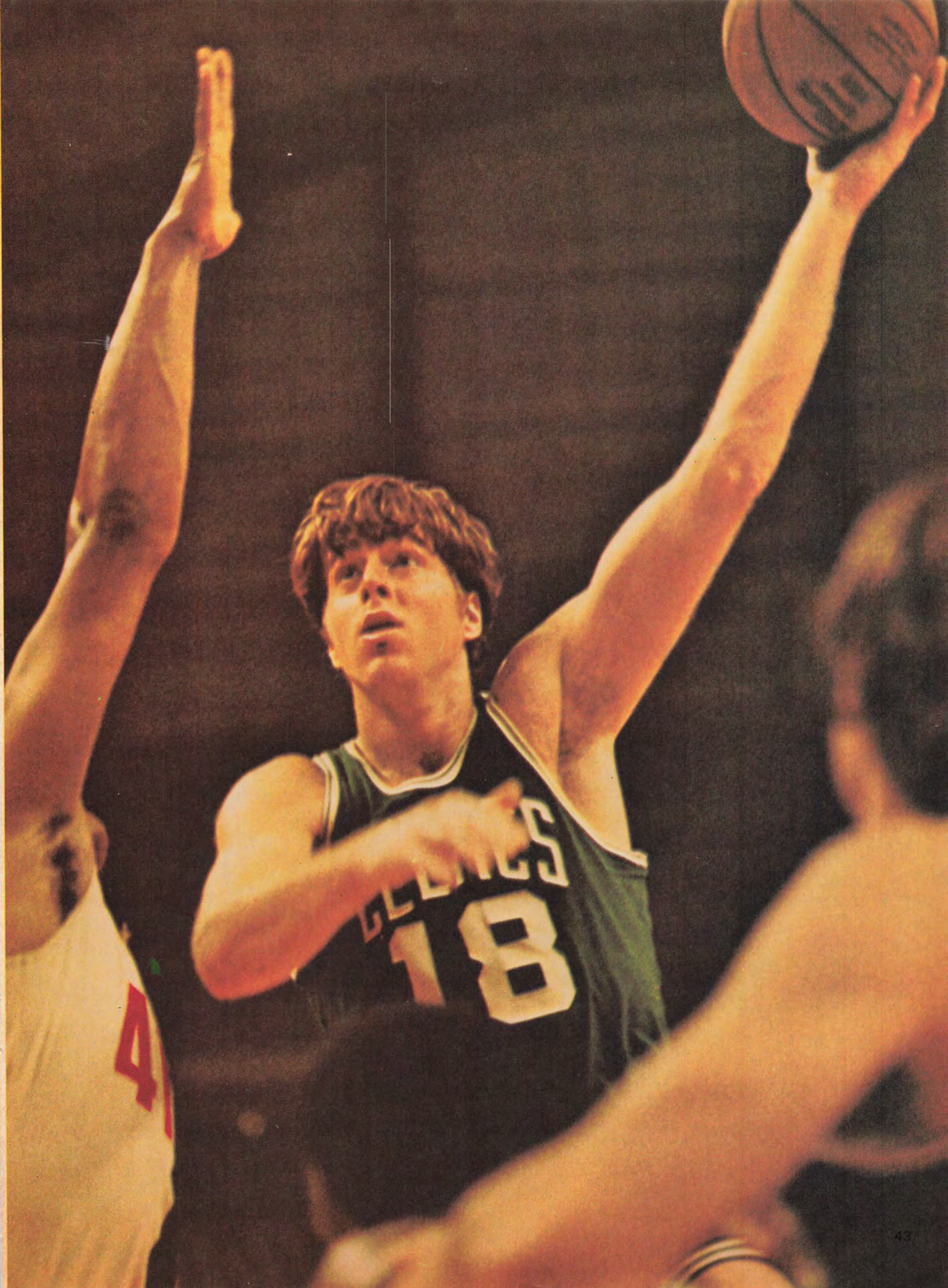
High Henry Finkel was supposed to be the second coming of Russell but he was found wanting

as the Beantowners' starting center. So, Coach Tom Heinsohn discussed the situation with General Manager Red Auerbach and Finkel, Boston's 7-foot pivot man, suddenly became Boston's tallest bench-warmer. He simply couldn't match the league's other centers.

Enter one Dave Cowens, a red-haired ruffian from the word-Go and go he did. Right from the start he proved that playing center could be as easy as brewing a cup of tea. Although he is a

What makes Dave so important now is that he is a master of the pick and roll, not an easy thing for centers to master. Dave attributes this to having played forward for the Seminoles. "It's important for a center to contribute as much as he can to the team, whether it's scoring, rebounding or setting picks. Although I am considered small in a land of giants, I make up in finesse and hustle what I may lack in physical equipment."

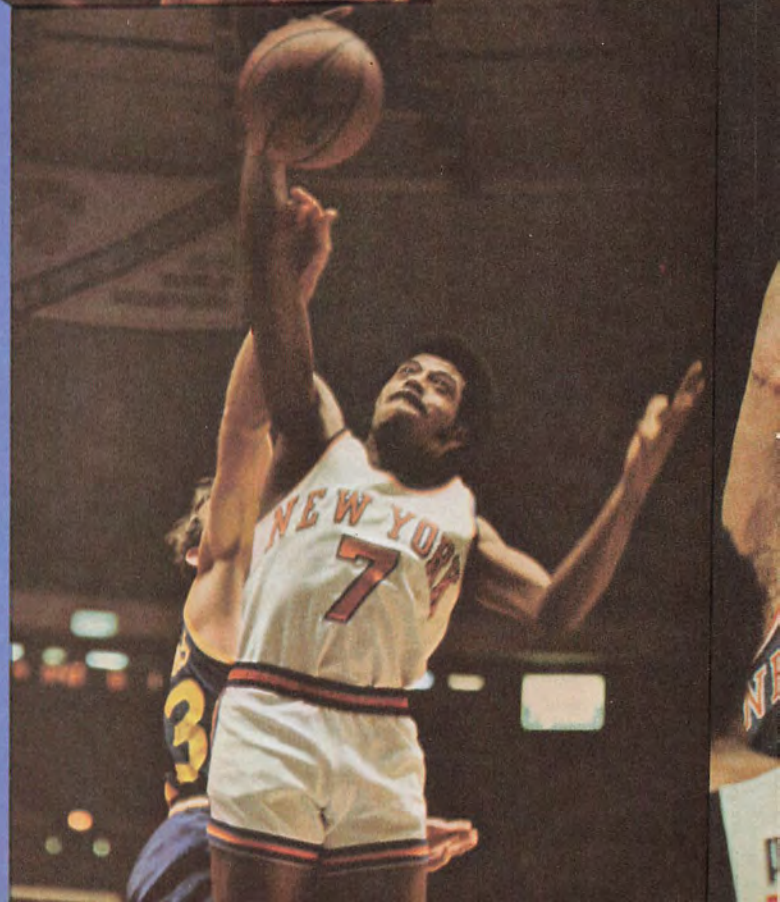
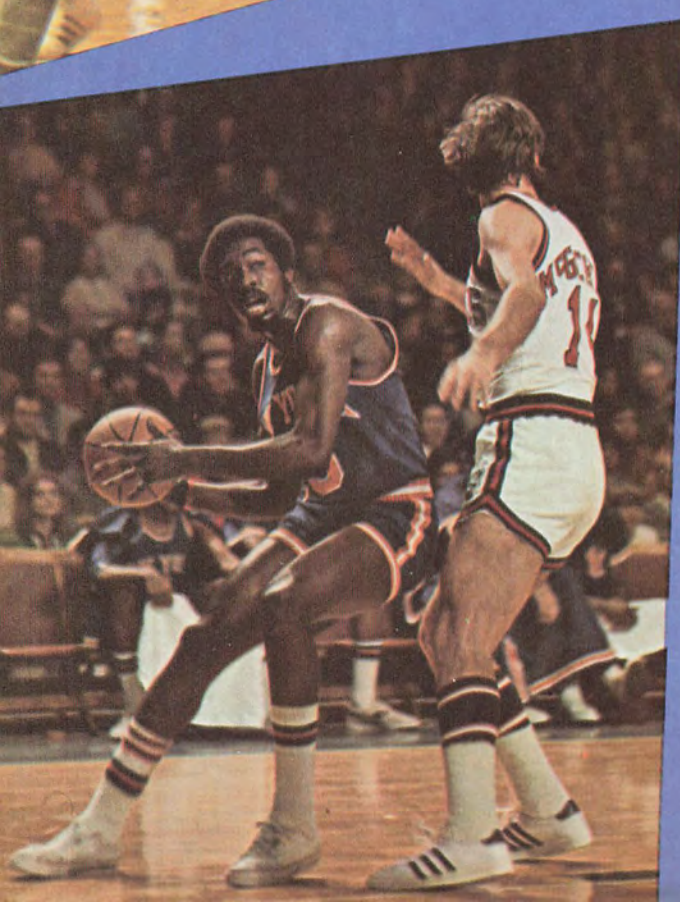
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1972-73



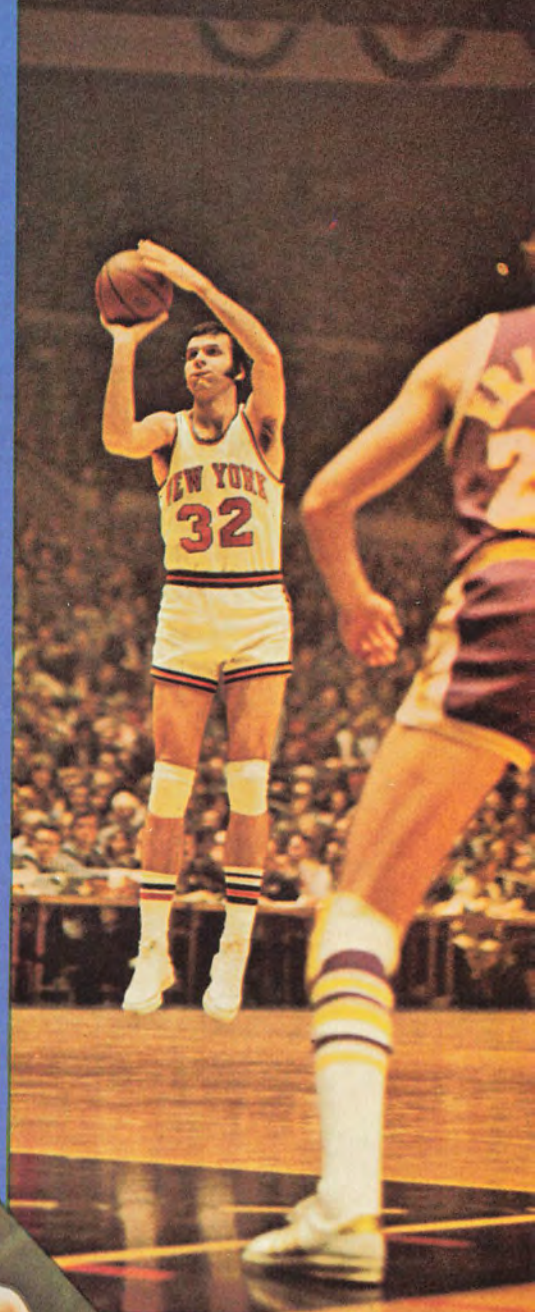
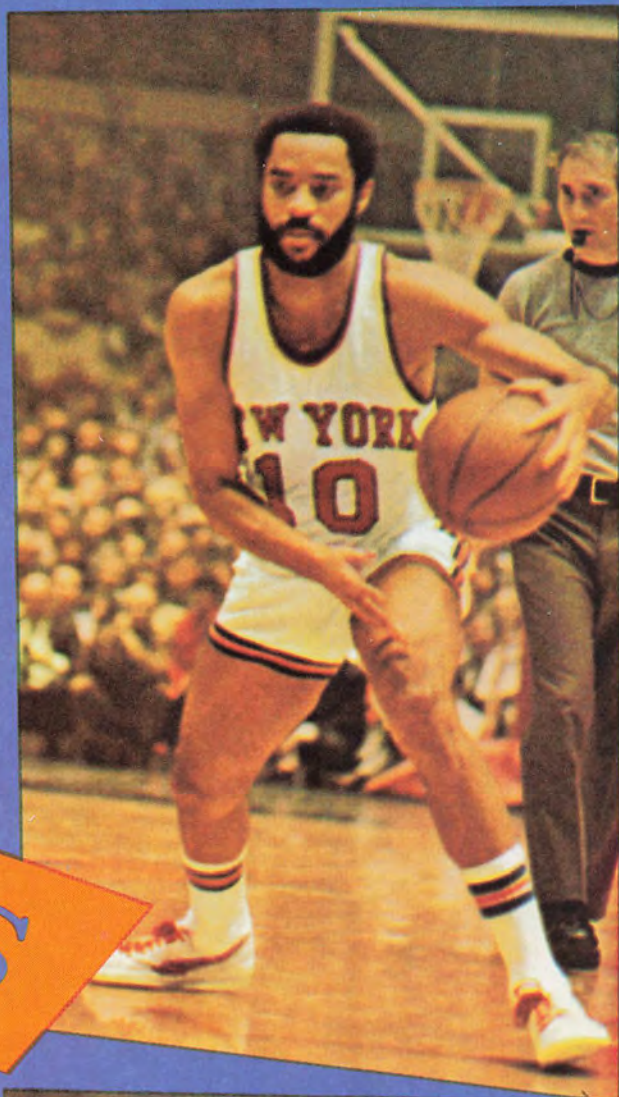
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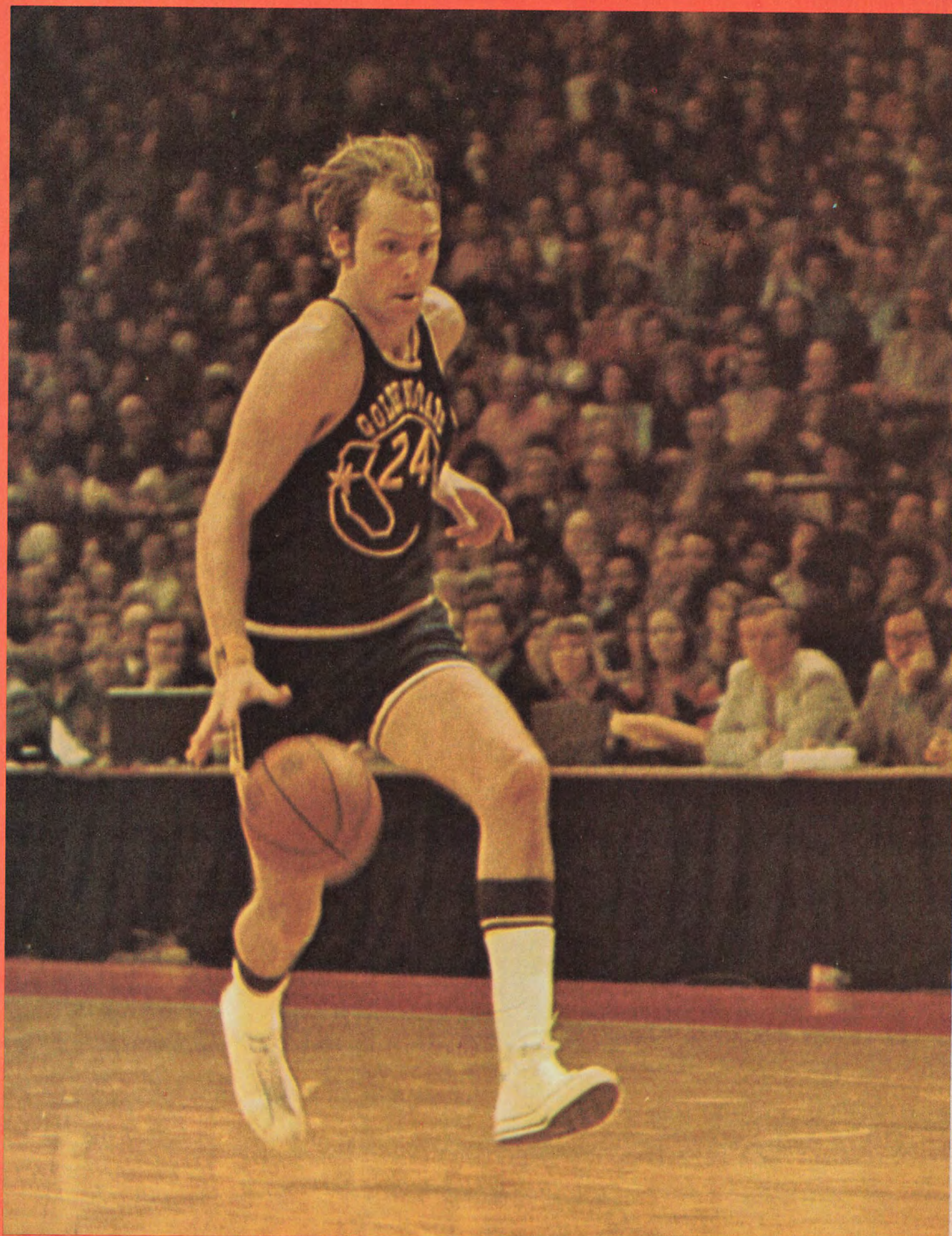


World Champions



NICKS





RICK BARRY Tales Of A Happy Warrior

Once upon a time there was a gypsy who lived in the world of basketball. Every year would start with no one, not even himself, knowing where he was going to end up. And then finally he made it back to where it all started. Rick Barry had made it back home, and the Warriors lived happily ever after.

By Larry Bortstein

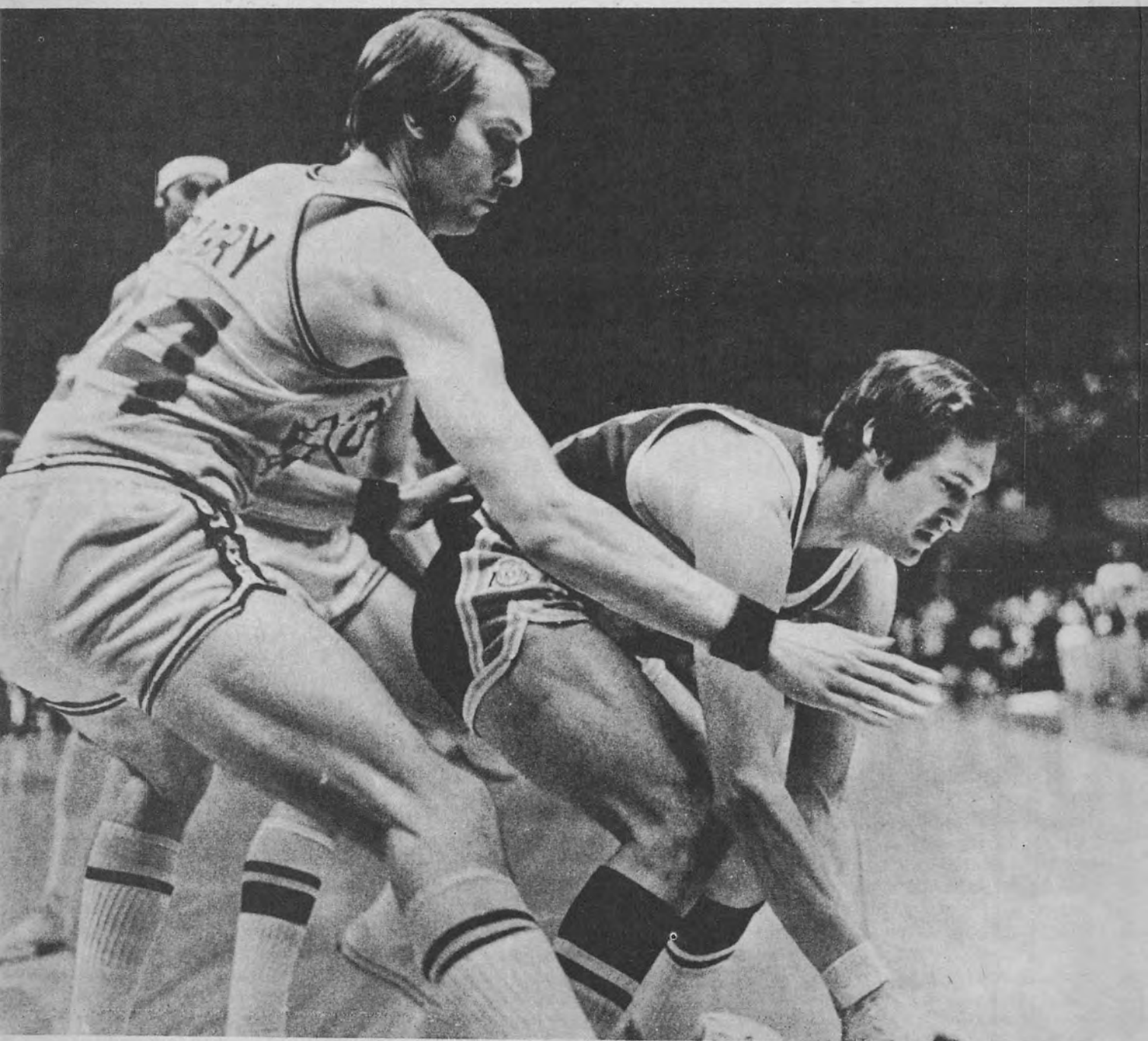
The magazine business being what it is, with article deadlines roughly two months or more before the publication of an issue, it used to be that preparing an article about Rick Barry fell into the category of a risky gamble. You might do an article telling all about Barry's plans for the coming season with the team he happened to be playing for at the moment—then, quicker than one of his own drives to the basket, he

would land with another club by the time the article appeared in print.

There's no risk this year. Rick is a confirmed member of the Golden State Warriors of the National Basketball Association, and likely to remain so for quite a while. Though the Warriors made a surprising dip from 51 victories in the regular season of 1971-72 to 47 last year with Barry in the lineup, the Golden Staters showed what

they were made of when they knocked Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's Milwaukee Bucks out of the post-season playoff tournament. That they were subsequently eliminated themselves by the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western finals hasn't changed the opinions of many pundits who see the Warriors as potential title candidates this time around.

This is a solid ball club, possessed of classy and talented vet-



"Defenses have changed . . . they try to jam you, overplay you, double-up, sag, or do anything legal to change your pattern. The game is faster, and Rick is ideal for the game."

—teammate Jeff Mullins

erans like Jeff Mullins, Nate Thurmond, Clyde Lee and Jim Barnett. Then there's Kevin Joyce, the 6-3 former All-American from South Carolina, and Butch Beard, the outstanding defensive guard acquired by trade during the off-season from the Seattle SuperSonics for Mahdi Abdul-Rahman (the former Walt Hazzard).

But mostly there is Barry. In an off-season informal poll of coaches around the NBA and American Basketball Association to determine the outstanding forward in the pro game, Julius Erving, about to begin his first season with the New York Nets, won the nod. The 23-year-old Erving, late of the Virginia Squires, has made tremendous advances toward super-stardom in only two years of

pro ball. Barry finished second in the balloting.

Erving and Barry's careers have, of course, other parallels. Rick balked at playing for the Virginia club when the ABA moved its folded Washington franchise there three years ago, so the Squires sent him to the Nets. The Virginians eventually signed Erving a year early out of the University of Massachusetts and he became an instant ABA sensation.

Though he was a great favorite in New York, and landed an off-season television job that many felt would be a prime motivation toward keeping him happy in Gotham, Barry jumped back to the Warriors, the team for which he had been NBA rookie of the year in 1965-66. Rick had signed a five-year contract with Warrior owner Franklin Mieuli prior to going to the Nets. The contract with Mieuli stipulated that he had to return to the West Coast for 1972-73.

"I've never broken a contract," Barry often said in a fit of exaggeration during his two-year stay with the Nets. Referring to his nomadic wanderings through the two leagues, which took him from San Francisco's NBA Warriors to Oakland's ABA Oaks, to Washington, to Virginia, and to the Nets, Rick said, "People misunderstand what has happened." But when Mieuli went to court again to get Barry to honor the five-year deal signed in 1970, Rick was finding reasons why he had to stay in New York.

However, once Mieuli had won back his services, Barry went on San Francisco television to tell Bay Area fans that his evocations of love for New York had merely been "business. I had to say those things." The William Morris Agency, which handles noteworthy personalities from all fields—including one Rick Barry—Agreed with Barry's tactics. "That Rick is a shrewd businessman," said a William Morris representative.

"I had commitments to Franklin Mieuli and the Warriors," recalls Barry, "and also to Roy Boe and the Nets. It was a difficult situation

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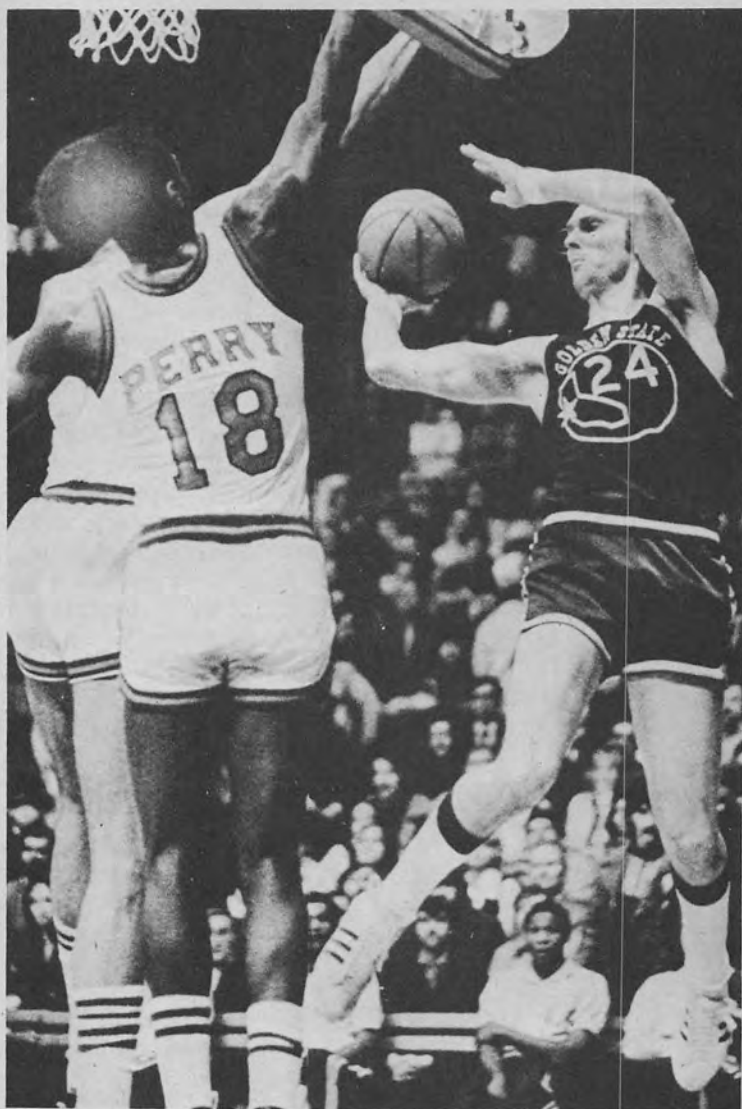
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to be in. I had heard that the whole thing wouldn't be settled for a long time, and that disturbed me because I felt that it wasn't right to give up my career to try and take the matter its full legal course." Rick's status wasn't settled until October 6, 1972, virtually on the eve of the 1972-73 opener. He already had sat out one full season in 1967-68 after jumping the Warriors. The courts had ruled he couldn't play for Oakland until 1968-69.

But all that is behind Barry now. After playing in four cities in seven



years while being traded only once, Rick has been welcomed back wholeheartedly by the San Francisco fans, and could be the catalyst in the Warriors' continuing rise to the NBA throne room.

"It took Rick a little while to get accustomed to the way we play the game," says Warrior coach Al Attles. "Although he and big Nate (Thurmond) had been together a couple of seasons here before, our style is different now than it was when Rick first came here. Rick doesn't have as big a rebounding load now as he had then. Once he got rolling, though, he was the same old Barry. He may be the best all-round forward in the NBA, though I suppose I'm prejudiced."

Attles can't be too far wrong. Rick made the All-NBA second team last season after topping Golden Gate scorers with a 22.3 average and hauling in 728 rebounds. His league-leading .902 free throw average—on 358 of 397—was one of the highest ever recorded. Barry seemed headed for a new NBA record for consecutive free throws when he opened the 1972-73 season by hitting his first 39 straight. The record of 56 belongs to Bill Sharman, who was Rick's first pro coach at San Francisco.

Barry's streak was snapped when he missed twice against Buf-

falo, but he kept up a blistering charity stripe pace all year. He's still the only player in the NBA who shoots his free throws underhanded.

"It's kind of a lost art form," he says. "It's just practice and a certain feel. Practice, feel, and concentration. I started out shooting them underhanded and never saw any reason to change." Rick never has averaged less than .862 from the line in any season.

LEAGUES LEADER

Prior to last season, Barry's last NBA season of 1966-67 saw him end Wilt Chamberlain's string of seven consecutive scoring titles. Barry averaged 35.6 ppg that winter. In 1968-69, his first year in the ABA, Rick became the only player in pro basketball annals to lead both leagues in scoring, hitting 34 ppg for the Oakland Oaks.

Pro ball is a different game now than it was when Rick played his early seasons in the NBA? Jeff Mullins, the Warriors' high-scoring backcourt man, who was a teammate of Barry's his first time around in the Bay Area, and now is a teammate again, analyzed the type of game Barry employs.

Speaking one afternoon early last season, Mullins pointed out that, "Defenses have changed since 1967. Playing against teams like the Knicks, Bulls, Lakers, and others requires intelligent defenses. Defenses try to jam you now, try to overplay you, double-up, sag, or anything legal to change your pattern. The forwards are shorter. The game is faster. And Rick," Mullins concluded, "is ideal for today's game."

During his two prolific seasons in New York, Barry lost in the headlines war with other New York-based players like Dave DeBusschere, Walt Frazier, and Willis Reed. But most keen observers felt he was the top all-around cage performer in town. The combination of skills, grace, and poise that first made him a schoolboy sensation in nearby Elizabeth, New Jersey, then at the University of Miami, has been tempered by maturity. At 29, the 6-7, 220-pounder is deceptively slender, but packs plenty of strength in his blond-topped body.



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It was Barry who almost single-handedly led the undermanned Nets to the final round of the ABA playoffs two season ago against the Indiana Pacers. The Nets staged a colossal upset in the first round when they knocked off the Kentucky Colonels, winners of a record 68 games during the regular season, in six games.

Though he had been hurting for weeks, Rick played magnificently against the Pacers, and played the major role, along with rookie

guard John Roche, in steering the Nets to the final round. The Pacers, loaded with talent at every position and on the bench, finally wore down the New Yorkers after six tough games. Rick's final seconds as an ABA player—though he didn't realize they were his last ABA seconds at the time—were ignominious. He muffed a pass out of bounds in the closing seconds to give Indiana possession and insure the Pacers' victory.

No one could possibly attach the

goat's horns on Rick, however, as it was clear to all that the Nets couldn't have gone nearly as far in the ABA championship tournament as they did without Barry's services. When Rick departed New York for good at the beginning of the 1972-73 season, Lou Carnesecca, then the Nets' coach, called Rick's leave-taking "a terrific loss. He was a wonderful team man." Carnesecca resigned from the Nets after last season to go back to his old job as coach of the



"And at center, number 10, Walt Frazier!" No, as long as there are guys who are seven-feet tall, Clyde will be seen at a backcourt position. From there, though, he will continue to make the fancy pass, the whirling jump shot, come up with the unexpected steal and even pull down the clutch rebound. Walt Frazier is in complete control.

WALT FRAZIER

Center Of The

New York Knicks

By Dave Klein

Throughout the rest of the country he's a recognized superstar, and in every franchise city in the NBA he has his cult of devout followers.

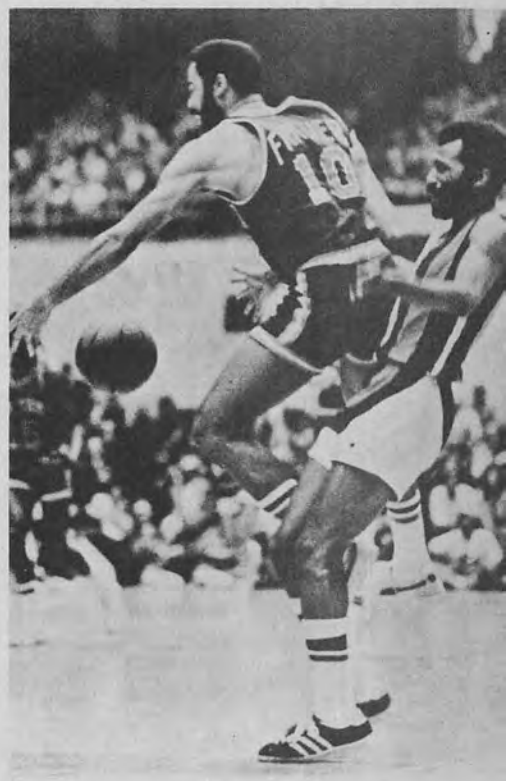
But in New York City he's absolutely cut from folk-hero cloth. He could run for Mayor and win. He could be traded and set off a revolution that might result in the sacking and burning of Madison Square Garden. If he's injured his fans sit up nights and worry. If he doesn't play a game, be it important or against Philadelphia, they buzz, flutter and phone the team's offices. When he does something that only he can do, the fans smile and chuckle and accept him for the magician he is.



"It's the steals at home that hit me the most. I get charged up with one, and then when the crowd goes into that noise act, it's like coming at me in waves."

He plays for the New York Knicks. His name is Walt Frazier. But you may know him only as Clyde.

On a team that, since 1969, has had trouble finding a fulltime center, Walt Frazier is the center of the success. When Willis Reed was in one functional piece, he



drew the adulation . . . well, he shared it with Clyde. But then Willis tore up his knee and injured his hip and became a dedicated cripple, and the Knicks traded for Jerry Lucas and had to change their game because Jerry prefers to play outside.

There have been constants,



however. Dave DeBusschere, for instance, has improved with age. And Bill Bradley proved to everyone, including some teammates, just how important he is to their team concept of things.

But the other guard spot has changed, from Dick Barnett to Earl Monroe and now, occasionally, to such as Dean Meminger.

Reed is coming back, and it looks good. He played better last season than at any time since the first championship of 1969, and he got himself up for the final series against Los Angeles and played magnificent basketball.

DeBusschere and Bradley, for different reasons, are in their final years. Dave is going to become general manager of the ABA New York Nets and Bradley is going to . . . well, if those people who watched him at Princeton are right, Bill is going to become president.

Reed and Monroe, also for different reasons, cannot be expected to stay around much longer. Willis is getting tired and even if he has another year or two of better basketball, he's reaching the age when retirement might become part of his thoughts. Monroe? He'd like to be on a team where he can be the star. He is, after all, a guard of consummate skill. Whatever Frazier can do, Earl can do, but they cannot do it together.

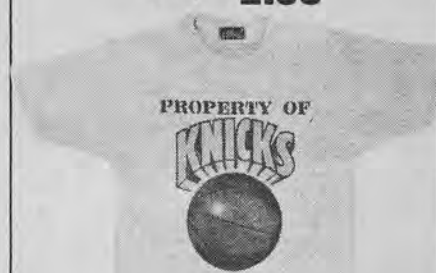
And as long as head-coach-general manager-vice president Red Holzman chooses Frazier, there is no need for the other side of the brilliantly talented coin.

So Clyde, so dubbed because of his flashy dress style which hit New York at the same time as the movie "Bonnie and Clyde," is the heart of the Knicks. He is their scorer and their assist-leader and their playmaker and their ball-handler and there were more than just a few games in which he was their high rebounder.

Indeed, on a team with Lucas, DeBusschere, Bradley and Monroe, he often led in rebounding because he is, in truth, a 6-5 man who could most likely play forward in this league and do well.

During the regular season in 1972-73, when the Knicks coasted

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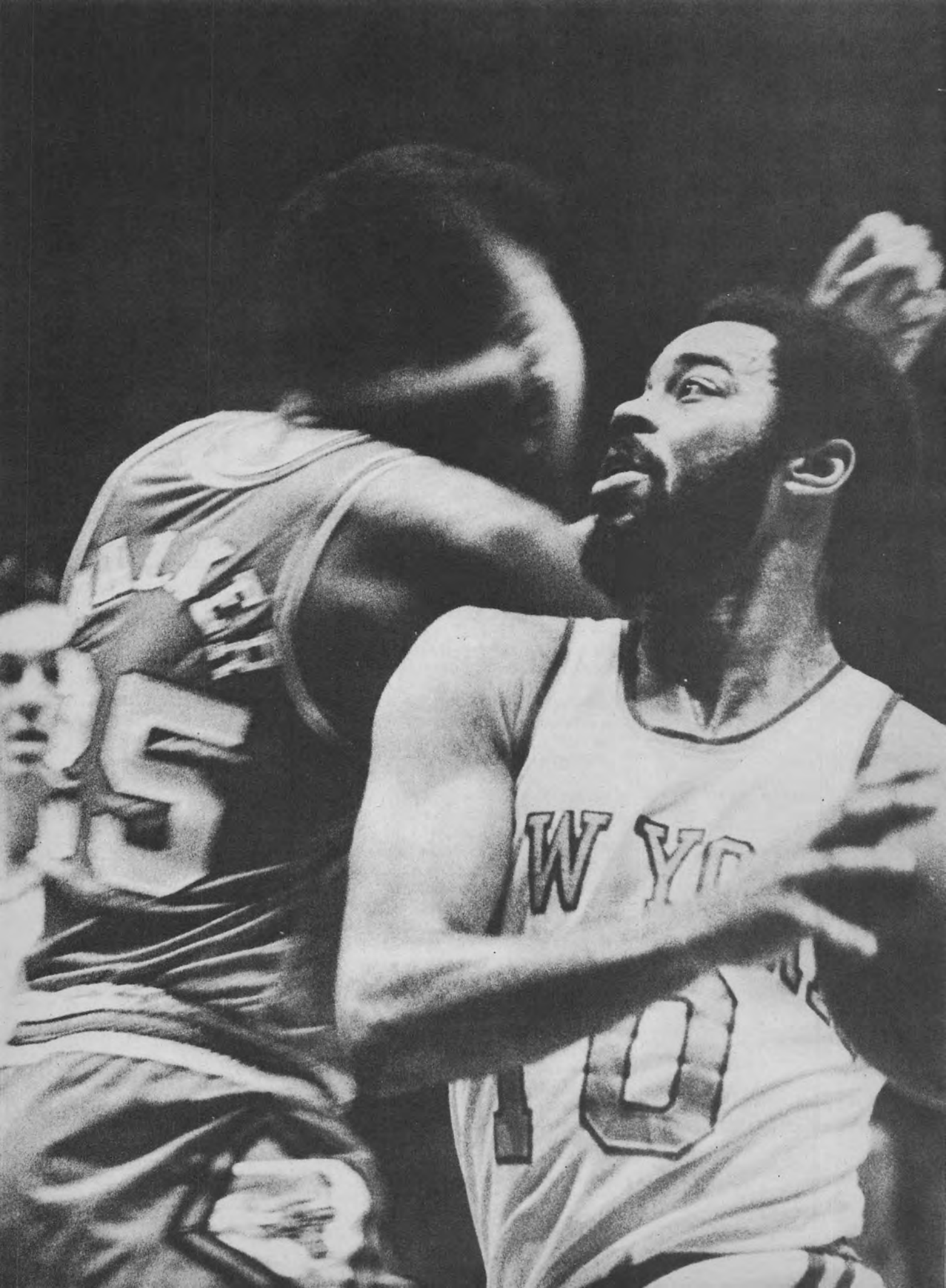
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to a second-place finish behind the Boston Celtics, Frazier was the team's leading scorer (21.1), their high assists man (461), played the most minutes (3,181), was second in field goal percentage (49.0), third in rebounds (570), and the team leader, DeBusschere, had 787, Reed 590).

It wasn't a bad season. It was good enough to earn another All-Star berth for Frazier, good enough to earn him another spot on the NBA's All-Defensive team, good enough to get the Knicks into the playoffs. Once there, Clyde let down a bit. It wasn't intentional, of course, but many said he was simply tired.

In the five-game opening round series with Baltimore (now the Capital Bullets), Frazier scored 107 points. He had 39 rebounds and 36 assists.

Then the Knicks played the Celtics. Oh, how they played the Celtics.

They had finished second to Boston's Green Machine during the regulation season, a season in which the Celtics swept past everything and everyone and won 68 games and looked like the reincarnation of the Panzer Shock Troops.

But a funny thing happened when the Celtics hit the playoffs. After playing "playoff caliber" basketball all season (and other teams do not, no matter what Walter Kennedy says) Boston suddenly found all the others playing just as hard and wanting to win just as badly.

So it got tougher, but the Celtics got past Atlanta in the first round, since Dave Cowens decided they would and not even his teammates argue with that study in violence.

And then . . . (accompaniment here should be the gnashing of teeth and the cat-calling of packed arenas) . . . and then Boston met New York.

Boston won the first game, 134-108. Disgrace, right?

New York won the second game, 129-96. Disgrace, right?

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sists and he had 51 rebounds and if anyone in short pants and sneakers can be beautiful, he was.

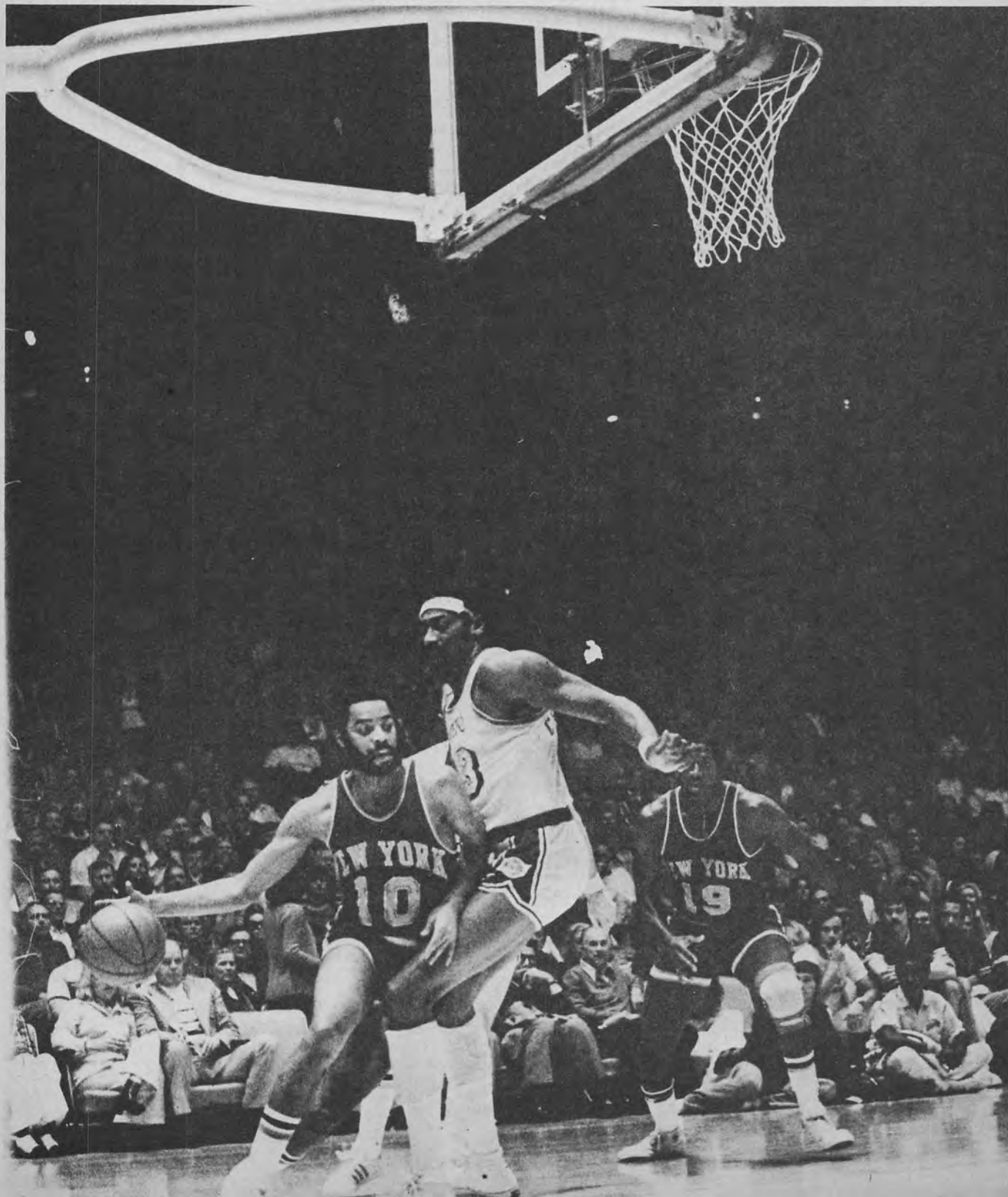
And now, to Los Angeles.

But a funny thing happened to Walt Frazier when the Knicks played the Lakers. He stopped being the center of the team.

He had 12 points in the first game, five rebounds, eight assists. He had 20 points in the second game, five rebounds, four assists.

Game Four gave him totals of 19 points, eight rebounds and eight assists. In the last one, the fifth game, he responded with 18 points, nine rebounds and five assists.

Not a bad series, you say? Not bad at all? Well, perhaps not. For other people. But the fans had come to expect much more, much more indeed from Clyde, and they were, frankly, distressed.



During the series, those news-men covering the spectacle were besieged with questions. "What's wrong with Frazier? Is he hurt? Is he all right?" The man was tired. It's not easy work, being a whole team.

Walt Frazier, who is now 28 years old, was the Knicks' No. 1 draft choice when he was eligible out of Southern Illinois. He had just finished leading SIU to the championship of the NIT, and he decided to turn pro rather than play his final season in Carbondale.

It's been six seasons since, and now Clyde drives a Rolls Royce and earns upwards of \$200,000 annually from the Knicks plus untold thousands from diverse activities.

He has a flair that makes girls giddy and a manner that bespeaks of excellence and charisma and that indefinable electricity that turns rooms into showplaces when he enters. His style of dress is still absurd—by normal tastes. But in the world of high society and higher fashion where Frazier lives, he is the darling, the master.

"I don't consider myself the center of the team," he says. "The big thing here is that we do it all together. I work with Bradley and DeBusschere and Monroe and Willis and we do it as a team. You know, all that stuff about 'hit the open man' and 'take the percentage shot' and 'play for the guy without the ball' is really true, man. We do it as one . . . and that's why we win. Teams with better players can't touch us because when we match up, it's five-against-one or maybe five-against-two or even five-against-three. The teams that give us the most trouble, like Boston and Los Angeles, they know this. They play their own kind of team ball, but last year ours was better."

Walt Frazier knows who's better. He is gentleman enough not to publicly state his preference. But he knows. He cannot fail to see the ease with which the Knicks dismantled Los Angeles, nor the disdain with which they came up to the final game with Boston, in Boston, and then turned on the hidden switch and electrocuted the Celtics, fried 'em right in Boston Garden.

He also speaks about his own affinity for this game, which is a deeper relationship than just player-to-sport. He lives basketball. He has been known to hold onto a basketball for hours in his apartment, just for the feel of it in his hands. He admits to a charging up when a game is to be played, admits to a special feeling that gets him higher and higher.

What turns him on, and what turns on his thousands of admirers, is the steal. Clyde has hands that are fast. They are, perhaps, no faster than a beam of light or a sneeze, but they are fast. He can flick out those long, almost delicate fingers and pluck a fly from the air. He can catch three falling coins—one at a time. He can steal a basketball in mid-dribble, and be halfway back up the court before the victim reaches down to push that ball against the floor again.

"It's the steals, I guess, especially at home," he says, "I think that's what hits me the most. I get charged up with one and that makes me play good enough to get another, and then another and another. Sometimes it's a hard feeling to describe, but I feel like I'm floating and like nobody can keep the ball away from me and the crowd goes into that noise act and it's like coming at me in waves.

"Basketball is really my thing."

Clyde is not adverse to spending the fruits of his labor. He has the clothes, which range from four-inch purple-and-yellow-and-green heel shoes to \$4,000 fur coats. He has the Rolls. He even rents two parking spaces at his fashionable New York City apartment garage so that no one can park next to the Rolls and—heaven forbid!—scratch it.

He lives a lifestyle that is fast and colorful and replete with money and women and glamor and success.

But it all comes from being a basketball star. Perhaps, as many say, from being the best guard who ever played this game. He might just be that good. In any case, he is good enough now to be the center . . . the heart and soul, especially the soul . . . of the New York Knicks.

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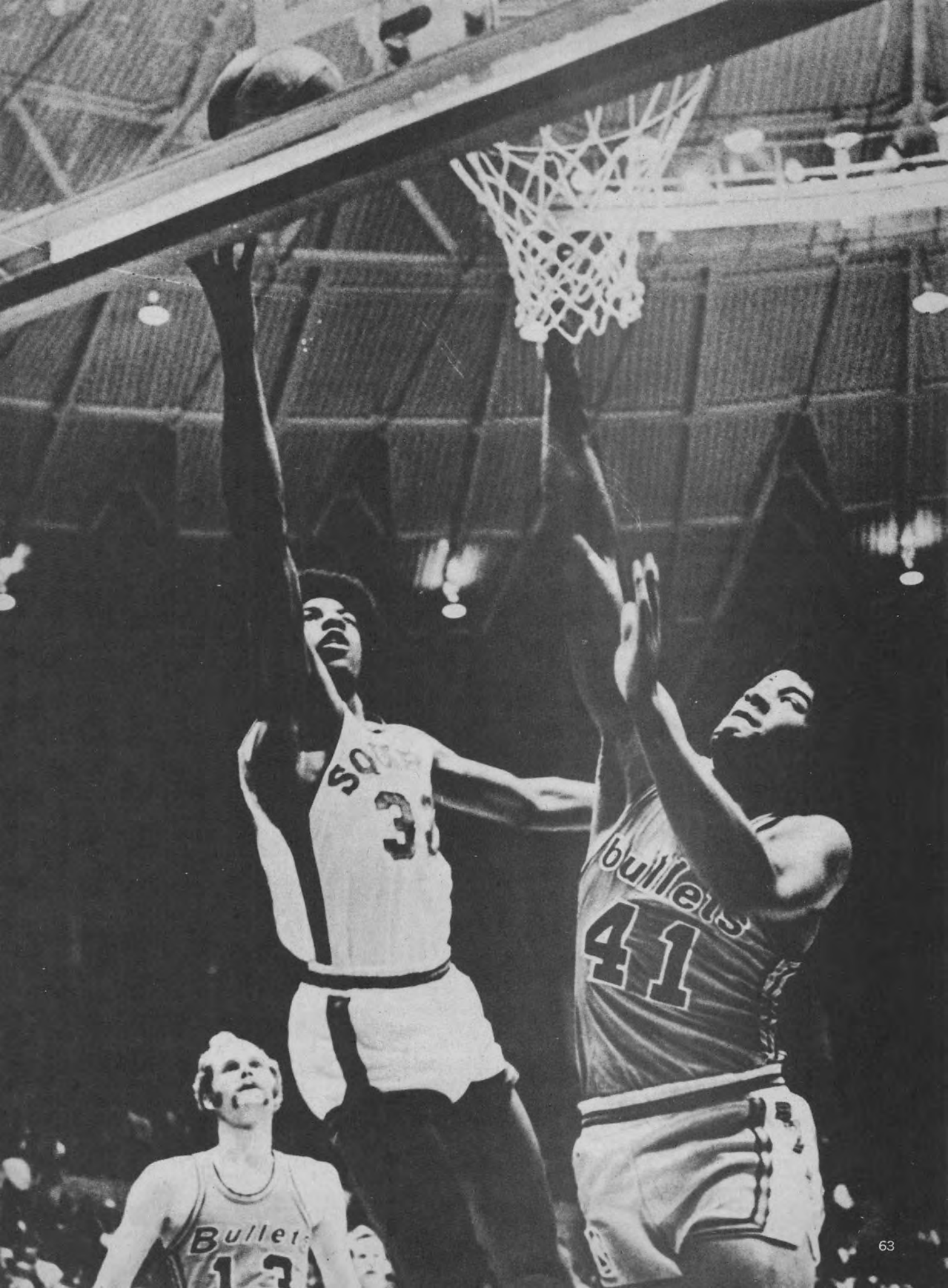
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By Jim O'Brien

Julius Erving was at ease, free at last, he felt, his 6-7 body stretched out, all arms and legs, it seemed, on a grassy slope outside the Roosevelt Park playgrounds where he'd just been playing a series of two-on-two basketball games one night this past summer.

Earlier that day, the New York Nets had announced that, through a series of payoffs, they had acquired the rights to Erving from both the Virginia Squires of the ABA and the Atlanta Hawks of the NBA, who'd both been to court to see whom he'd be playing for. Now he was a Net, signed to an eight-year contract calling for something in the neighborhood of \$2.5 million. And here he was,



"Julius creates. It just flows out of him. He has great imagination on the court. He's an artist."

**—Lou Carnesecca
(ex-coach, N.Y. Nets)**

back home again at Roosevelt Park, just 15 minutes down the highway from Nassau Coliseum where he'll be playing for the Nets this season, going against his old buddies, strictly for fun.

"Stick it, Doctor!" kids had been crying out as the young man they call Dr. J., just 23, played a half-hearted half-court game in which he seldom showed off all those moves and slam dunks that separate Dr. J. from the pack in professional basketball.

Lou Carnesecca, who coached the Nets for three years before re-

turning to St. John's, had a chance to sign Erving after his junior year at the U. of Massachusetts, but didn't as a matter of principle. He describes Dr. J.'s style of play as well as anyone. "He creates," says Louie. "It just flows out of him. He has great imagination on the court. You can talk about this guy like a poet. He is a poet, an artist."

Erving would appreciate that. He thinks he brings a certain flare to the game, an excitement it needs, and the Nets did not hesitate when they got a second crack at him.

"Julius has come home," Nets'



owner Roy Boe had said earlier that day, "and he's come home for good."

Now Erving had extended his long, lean frame on the grass, relaxing and allowing his words to flow in the same smooth manner in which he does his thing on a basketball court.

"I'm not a very difficult person to please," said Erving, for beginners. "My job allows me to go a lot of places and do a lot of things seven months of the year. In the off-season, I'm content to do nothing, to enjoy the simple things of

life—like lying out here in the grass."

A cream-colored Lincoln Continental Mark IV, with a stereo tape console inside, which Erving had parked nearby, would seem to offer an argument to what Dr. J. had just said, but he didn't think so. Perhaps if he had parked a private jet, like the one Arnie Palmer pilots, he'd have thought that an extravagance.

Erving was hot, he'd been playing ball for several hours, and he moved when he heard the bell ringing of the Good Humor man. He went to the fence, and asked for several kinds of ice cream concoctions, being told each time that none was left. Finally, the young man sitting nonchalantly in the window of the truck, said, "Why don't you get in that Mark IV and go to the grocery store? You come around here jiving us . . ."

Julius just laughed, considering the source, and took a chocolate-covered ice-cream. Soon, it started melting in his large hands. "He's not selling very good ice cream," he said with a smile, before depositing the remaining mess into a nearby trash basket with the most pedestrian stuff shot he'd ever attempted.

"When I came over here today," Erving went on, "a lot of guys had heard the news about me singing with the Nets, but no one was crowding around, jumping up and down. I wasn't exactly that worked up about it myself. Do I look excited?"

That's the pity of it. Erving looked as deadpan as he did that day before a platoon of reporters, photographers and TV cameramen. Today it's difficult to find a well-paid pro basketball player who's excited about his good fortune. It seems somehow to be a shame.

"I'll never help a player again to negotiate a pro contract," said Al McGuire, the Marquette coach, who helped Jim Chones jump to the Nets the year before. "That's what he wanted: to play pro ball, to have a Hog (ghetto language for Cadillac), the big money for him and his family. Now he's got it, and he's the unhappiest damn kid I know."



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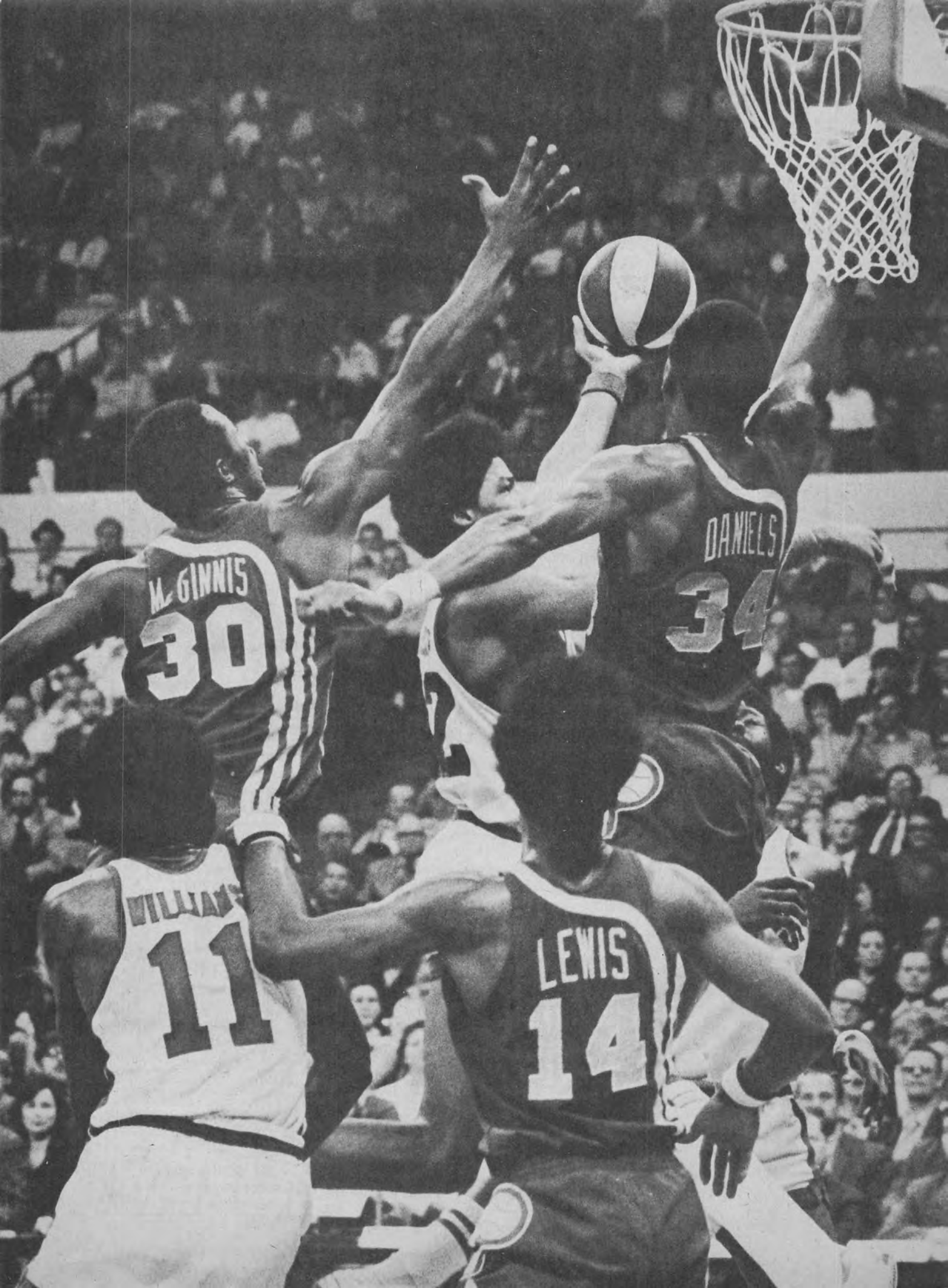


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INSTANT SUCCESS

Chones didn't come through in his first season with the Nets. Erving was an instant success, however, with the Squires. He averaged 27.3 points and 15.7 rebounds as a rookie on a team that had Charlie Scott as a scoring leader. His 34.6 points per game average was the ABA's best. With those sort of statistics, Erving was told he'd sold himself at bargain basement prices when he signed a four-year contract for \$500,000, much of it in deferred payment, when he quit school. So he signed with the Hawks at higher figures. That's when life got more complicated.

"I hope that's all behind me now," he was saying this warm summer night. "This should eliminate a lot of hassles and strains."

He said he would've played in Virginia, if the courts said he did, but had been looking forward to life in Atlanta.

"It was the kind of young, progressive city I hoped to build my future in," he said. "I never had any reason to believe I'd be back in New York. Being home hasn't really hit me yet. I figured there was no way I'd ever be back in New York."

The Knicks had tried to get him, but couldn't for some reason, resolve all the problems necessary to secure his services. With an aging team that needs to be built up again, Erving's loss was a serious one for them. Now the other team in town has a superstar with huge box-office appeal, who figures to tug away some of their Long Island fans, and some possibly from Queens and even the Brooklyn boroughs.

Did Erving need the big-time to feed his ego, feeling perhaps that he'd suffer the sort of way Henry Aaron did by playing in towns where he didn't get much national publicity?

"No, I don't feel that way," said Erving. "All during my basketball career and life, the acknowledgment of me has been in a very limited sense. I wasn't an All-America in high school. In college, I made All-American after my junior year, but there wasn't much build-up, and I was only third team or some-

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thing like that. I'm used to not being in the spotlight in a big league way."

Erving said he supports a sister who has two children, and his mother and step-father with the money he makes. He's buying a house for his mother, who supported him after she left her first husband with a welfare check and the money she made as a domestic, cleaning other people's homes. He said that his mother

was much more excited than he was about his coming home to play pro ball.

A lot of New York basketball fans shared her enthusiasm. Her son is something special, and they were anxious to see him play for a local team. After all, he's one of the most exciting players in pro ball, and the year before he averaged 31.9 points to lead the league in that category. He was also sixth in rebounding, third in

steals, seventh in blocked shots. His shooting percentage was .499, which was close to the top ten, as was his total of assists. According to Steve Harriman, the Squires' publicity man, he was a P.R. man's dream. "He even answered all his own mail," said Harriman.

Erving said he didn't need all the money he was getting from the Nets, but he was not about to turn any of it back to Roy Boe's bank account.



"The only reason I did what I did," he said, "was because that's what professional basketball is all about. I'd never kill anybody or hurt anybody over money. I'm making more money than I'll ever have any use for. I don't have a capitalistic attitude: make all you can, and screw the other guy, rip the owner. I love the game. I love to play. I'd play for free if everybody else did. But when in Rome, do as the Romans do."



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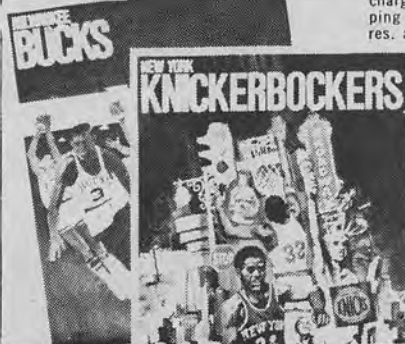
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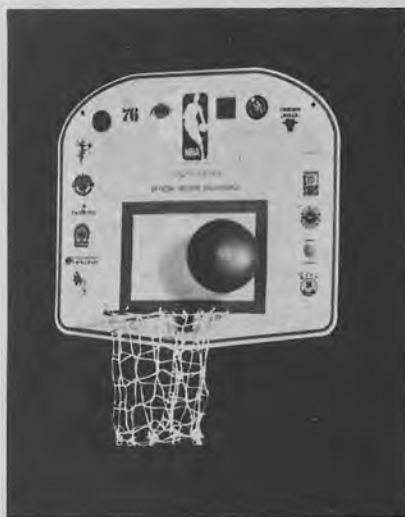
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COWENS

(Continued from page 42)

Cowens is a student of the school which believes that size is not an accurate determinant of the functional value of a center. There is no doubt that Cowens is well developed in certain phases of the game. He can handle the ball well, even dribbling on a fast break doesn't bother him.

He is an above average shooter and inordinately tough under the boards which is why he winds up with so many rebounds. He attributes the rebound production to hustle, not brute strength. Cowens' run-away locomotion tends to get him into trouble, however. He is prone to finding himself in foul trouble. "He tends to get a little carried away," offered Heinsohn. "He goes at this game with some of the ol' college zest and he then finds himself backed into a corner. But to be honest he's vastly im-

proved. He made a lotta mistakes as a rookie and tended to get into foul trouble."

The key word is "tended" to and even Dave admits that fouling out of 15 games "tends" to hurt the team. This is offset by the grizzled old veteran, John Havlicek. The two complement each other, forming a good balance between age and youth and styles of play. Cowens is maturing and of course he is the big man on defense now. He continues to demonstrate an unusual rebounding knack. For a man who is only 6-9, to grab over 1,000 rebounds with consistency, is a remarkable feat indeed. And the Celtics' front office is very much aware of how Cowens' steady performances brought the team back to do battle with arch-rival New York.

Cowens was deeply disappointed about last year's loss to the Knicks, although he declined to make any excuses for himself.

"You've got to respect the Knicks as a team but I still think we could have taken them. We were sporadic and they were consistent. And if you can't be consistent in the playoffs, you can forget it."

SKY-HIGH

In the next to last game of the Knicks-Celtics playoffs, Dave was sky-high. He shot, rebounded, set up shots for Havlicek, White and Chaney unlike any other time during the season. The Celts seemed to just steamroller New York. Yet in the finale, Boston bombed out and Dave took it very hard.

He admits to a short emotional fuse and many felt that it was this shortcoming that enabled the Knicks to win the playoffs. That charge, however, really doesn't hold much water. As Los Angeles' general manager Pete Newell puts it, "Sure, he's got a lower boiling point than most but what strikes me about him is his inner drive. That seems to allow him to exert all his talent on almost every play. To say the least, he is a very intense young man."

While he is intense on the court in a game, he's equally blah in practice. He feels it doesn't mean anything so why go all out. While others will scrimmage and practice shooting, Dave wanders around the court like a Bedouin in search of a camel. Once he even tried to throw chest passes over the scoreboard. Someone barked out from the stands that the Olympics were over. Dave paid no mind and went on throwing the ball.

His teammates and particularly Heinsohn described Dave in a game. "We'd break for a time-out and discuss a few things. But you can hardly talk to him," said Heinsohn, "and look, I get high myself during a game. But Dave is three times higher. I can speak right to him and I know he's trying to listen but he really doesn't hear me." What does Dave say to that soliloquy? "Yeah, he's right. I know when I get up from the bench to resume playing. I just ask John (Havlicek) what play we're going to run," admits Cowens.

Since he is so intense concerning basketball what does Cowens do to relax? The question, more properly put, can be—What doesn't he do? To begin with Cow-



ens is a natural putterer. He once bought a 1950 Plymouth for half a C-note and promptly started re-working it. This was the aftermath of a course he took at an ITT technical school. He enrolled in a full-time mechanics course because he felt it would be very useful to have a second job. The Celts' braintrust later pooh-pooed the mechanics course and the old car was left to its own resources.

Dave is still somewhat of an enigma among the pro hoop set. He is not much on the so-called "finer things of life" and would just as soon play Butting Heads as go to a party. Forward Don Nelson tells of his trials with Cowens. "He invented the game. We stand there and conk each other's noggins until someone gives up. I can outbutt everyone except Dave. He's got the hardest head I ever tried to butt."

When Cowens talks of his interests you get the feeling that you've just had an encounter with Encyclopedia Britannica. Dave maintains a working interest in vegetable gardening, the Boston Symphony, home-made soup, archery, the Bible with emphasis on the Old Testament, marketing, auto repairs and the bass violin.

Dave is big on investments too. He owns apartment houses, a catfish farm in British Honduras and is involved in other enterprises. However, his biggest investment he feels is yet to come and that is the 1973-74 NBA season.

He is looking forward with great relish to making the playoffs again. Now that he feels he knows how to react to playoff pressures and how to control his emotional peaks, he wants to make an even larger contribution to Boston's success this year.

"There's no doubt about it; it's a pride thing. Ya know, you see all those green and white banners hanging from the rafters, you automatically get the feeling that you've got something to prove all over again," states Cowens.

In Cowens' case that should be easier to show with each passing year.

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1973-74 AMERICAN BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION Previews and Predictions

By Tony Kornheiser and the Editors

Busy. Busy. Busy.

That's the ABA in this, the seventh season. Over the summer the usual ABA pattern unfolded: One team moved; the Dallas Chaparrals are now the San Antonio Spurs. One team moved, then moved back; that would be the Colonels who were sold to Cincinnati then rebought by Mrs. Ellie Brown, who set up a six-women board of directors. One team may yet be moving; that's Memphis and therefore, that's normal. One team was pressured to move; that's San Diego, which should go to Los Angeles, but will stay this year in the Zoo City and play in a 3,200 seat arena that is an admission of minor league status.

But then that's like old times for the ABA. The league has been seeking stability by moving around for seven years. The ABA has folded tents in Anaheim, Dallas, Los Angeles, Houston, Minnesota, Miami, Pittsburgh (twice), New Orleans, Oakland, New Jersey,

Washington D.C. and two suburbs on Long Island. Which is almost as many openings and closings as the road show *Sound of Music*.

But the ABA is still here, still hoping for the merger. And if the merger isn't just over the next hill, perhaps a new ABA rule proposal will speed it up. The ABA will experiment with a revolutionary rule to not allow a man to foul out of a game. That will keep all the superstars—and Gene Moore, who fouled out 22 times last year—in the games, so fans can get their moneysworth. Another proposed rule will not allow foul shots on the first four fouls of a quarter like in the NBA—it speeds up games and eliminates the “give-one” foul.

And in the end—like always—we'll see Kentucky and Indiana in their Corn Belt version of the subway series. The pick here is for Kentucky and women's lib. Ms. management is here to stay at least as long as the league, into which it bought.

EAST

KENTUCKY COLONELS

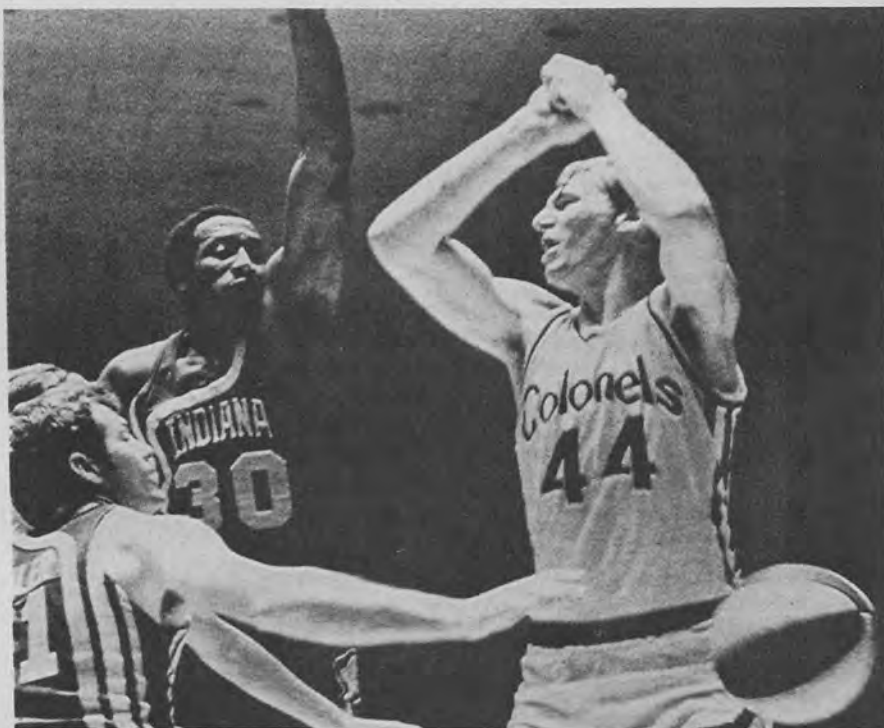
Finally the rumors were true. Two very important Kentucky Colonels jumped the club over the summer. General manager Mike Storen quit soon after Mrs. Ellie Brown (wife of the Kentucky Fried Chicken king) bought the club back from Cincinnati interests. And coach Joe Mullaney quit soon after Storen quit.

But Storen and Mullaney are not Gilmore and Issel. And both of those Kentucky players—Artis Gilmore and Dan Issel; two of only five ABA players to place in the top 10 in both scoring and rebounding—are back, and happy as the Colonels go after a championship for the six-woman board of directors who may do more for basketball just by staying out of the way and concentrating on ticket sales.

Together Issel and Gilmore form two-thirds of the best frontcourt in the league; and Issel backs-up Gilmore at center when necessary. All the Colonels need is a good scoring forward from either Wendell Ladner, Walt Simon or Claude Viriden; or any combination thereof. A rap on the guards has always been no defense. But while Lou Dampier, Rick Mount, Mike Gale and Jim O'Brien don't play the D, the Colonels gave up the fewest points in the league last year as Gilmore became once again the Great Rejector. Mount is still a good shooter, Gale is a hustler, O'Brien is a passer and Dampier does all three. If a new coach leans a bit heavier on letting the guards run—rather than using Mullaney's slow-down-and-set-it-up-for-Artis-and-Dan style, the Colonels could have the kind of season that would send people running to the record books. Praise the team and pass the chicken wings.

After years of coming very close, this year figures to break in all the right ways. If it doesn't, blame the Ms. take on the Ms. management and give some credit to Storen and Mullaney for vision.

Predicted Finish: 1st



Dan Issel



Artis Gilmore

NEW YORK NETS



John Roche



Julius Erving



Larry Kenon

The New York Nets are the newest subscribers to the Seattle NBA theory of basketball—if you don't have it, steal it. After a rancid season last year that found its scapegoat in Lou Carnesecca, the Nets front office pulled off four shrewdies that may result in the championship this season; certainly next season.

First, they stole Kevin Loughery from the 76ers as a coach—and didn't bother to tell the 76ers. Next, they stole Dave DeBusschere from the Knicks to become GM next year—and didn't tell the Knicks. Next, they stole Larry Kenon from the Tams to play forward—and didn't tell the Tams. But in the biggest steal of all, the Nets paid off all of Julius Erving's creditors, and got Dr. J in a Nets uniform for at least the next eight years. And he is simply, the best there is in the ABA.

So sure, the Nets have enemies. But they also have so much raw talent now they have to be title contenders . . . in either league.

There is one drawback—the Nets are a team of couch cases.

And that's what Loughery has to sort out. Loughery signed a five-year pact with the Nets—one year for each of his five wins at Philly last season. He'll probably spend this year sorting out the neurotics on his squad.

At guard, John Roche has to be convinced that his teammates like him even when he shoots. Bill Melchionni has to be convinced that the Nets look to him as the leader. Brian Taylor has to be in the starting lineup, or he gets down on himself almost as much as Roche does.

Up front, Kenon will be a force-fed forward and he'll have to be handled delicately. Jim Chones has to have his ego reinforced after such a poor year last year. But at the expense of Billy Paultz—who finally established himself as a good ABA center? How to have those two co-exist is Loughery's biggest problem. Rookies Jim O'Brien and Billy Schaeffer need playing time too. A gravy train it ain't . . . yet.

Predicted Finish: 2nd

CAROLINA COUGARS



Mack Calvin



Bill Cunningham

Certainly the Carolina Cougars were the surprise of the season last year, despite their loss to Kentucky in the playoffs. They won more regular season games than any team. They had the top superstar of the league in Billy Cunningham, who won the MVP for finishing in the top 10 in scoring and rebounding, leading the league in steals and putting real paying customers in the gyms. They had the coach of the year in natty Larry Brown, who made news with his Carolina Shuffle—a rotating system of substituting that played four guards evenly and kept up defensive pressure throughout the game.

But the league has a way of

catching up to the novelty. This year might not be finer for Carolina. Opposite Cunningham in the corner is Joe Caldwell, no longer the pogo-stick superstar of his youth. To ask for another great season from both Cunningham and Caldwell may be realistically unreal. Behind them, Dennis Wuycik has yet to prove he can do it in the pros, and Ed Manning is strictly a bench man. While the Cougars wait for center Mike Lewis to heal off an achilles operation, they have to go with thin Tom Owens for more than 40 minutes a game; an adequate stopgap at best. And while the guards—Mack Calvin, Steve Jones, Ted McClain and Gene Littles—are

good, they all commit fouls like crazy, and none of them can ever feel like leaders in the shuffle system, which can hurt in the ego.

Carolina went for help up front in the draft—Mel Davis, Tom Burleson, Maurice Lucas—and came up empty. It was a complete zero in the draft. This year, going with what they had last year might allow the other teams the time to catch up and react to all that speed and pressure. Through the winter there was floated the word that Brown was considering opting out of pro coaching. This year could make his mind up for him.

Predicted Finish: 3rd

VIRGINIA SQUIRES



Bernie Williams



Dr. J will be missed.

In the biggest news of the summer, the Virginia Squires sold the magical, mystical Julius (Dr. J) Erving to the Nets for \$3.5-million. Since a trade is supposed to help both teams, one might ask—How did this one help the Squires? Answer: It didn't.

Owner Earl Foreman—who apparently was convinced that Dr. J had no intention of playing in Virginia ever again—got some big bucks to help keep him solvent this season. But the way he has angered the local fans by selling the No. 1 attraction in the ABA may have cost him too much in the long run. This will probably be the Squires last full season in Virginia unless Al Bianchi really works a miracle.

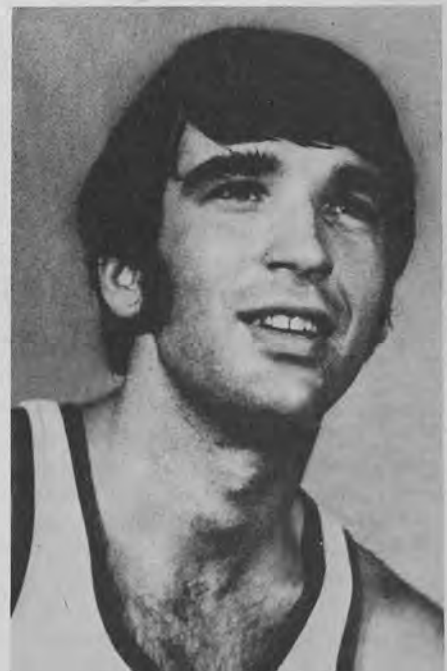
The Erving deal took a club that was on the verge of a championship, and changed it into a typically scrappy Virginia also-ran. It really is too bad for Bianchi because this might have been his year.

First of all, he got two good rookies in the draft. One is all-American guard Barry Parkhill,

who is expected to move right into a backcourt of Mike Barr, Fatty Taylor and Bernie Williams—all of whom score a little and defend like mad dogs—and provide instant offense. The other is Swen KO Charley NATER OF UCLA, the man who played in back of Bill Walton for two years. Nater was the No. 1 pick of the NBA Bucks, and Virginia is hoping he can win the job from Jumbo Jim Eakins, a creditable big man who lacks the muscle against the better centers in the league.

In the corners, Bianchi has three Georges, by George. The best is George Gervin, who might become a superstar here now that Dr. J is gone. The next best is George Carter, a 20 ppg scorer who came over from the Nets when Foreman unloaded Willie Sojourner. The least best is George Irvine, a good shooter but no defender. And there's super flake Neil Johnson too. All in all with Erving, this could have been some team. Now it's just another one.

Predicted Finish: 4th



George Irvine

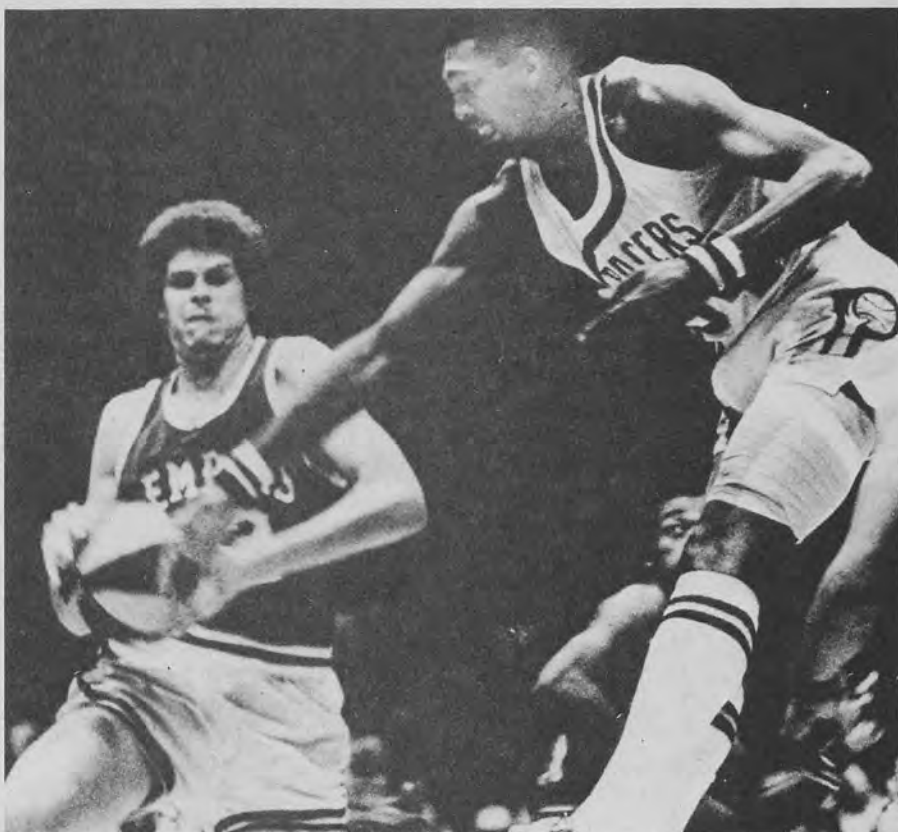
MEMPHIS TAMMS

Welcome to the ABA's revolving door franchise. Right now it's in Memphis as the Tams again, but next week Charlie Finley might be selling to Providence, New Haven or who-knows-where. Last season 22 different players wore Memphis uniforms; three Davises, a Chamberlain; a Cash and a Carrier among others. Once again the Memphis entry was not good enough to make the playoffs. Once again the Memphis entry fired its coach. And once again the Memphis entry looks like a good bet to do both again this season.

There is some talent here. George Thompson and Johnny Neumann in the backcourt were the only Tams to get votes for the all-ABA team, and both should be improved again this season. But who are getting the ball in—that is, when they aren't gunning it up themselves? Sure there's Randy Denton and Lee Davis and Wilbert Jones and Warren Davis from last year's team; and probably George Carter from the Nets as partial payment in the Larry Kenon steal. But all those players are possible 20 point scorers and probably 25 point defenders. The big trouble here is defense. The Tams gave up the most points in the league last season; 118 ppg, and you can't win many games when you have to score 120 every time out.

No one knows what kind of talent is here because there hasn't ever been a coach allowed to stick around long enough to develop it. With 22 players on the squad the players spend more time learning to place names to faces than on anything else, and team work has to be felt rather than demanded. This year the Tams may be more stable—but with Finley no team is ever really stable. For most of the players who get traded here, Memphis is the end of the line in their careers. For the ABA this year will likely be the end of the line in Memphis, and very few people will be moved to tears by their leaving.

Predicted Finish: 5th



Randy Denton



Johnny Neumann

WEST INDIANA PACERS

What's the story here? Every year it seems the Indiana Pacers are content to finish down the road in the regular season, then turn it on in the playoffs. Guys like Freddie Lewis and Roger Brown spend a whole season reading how they're washed up—then they smell all the playoff cash and play like college kids.

So maybe tradition dictates you don't pick the Pacers to finish first in the regular season, but they've won the ABA title three out of the last four years—and where else can you pick them but first? For all of Kentucky's bulliness under the boards, the Pacers led the league in rebounds. For all of the Nets' talent in the backcourt, the Pacers' top trio of Lewis, Donnie Freeman and Billy Keller got the job done better and with more teamwork. For all of Julius Erving's star quality, George McGinnis had almost equal stats at 27.6 ppg and 12.5 rpg at forward. And McGinnis does it without making his teammates jealous of his number of shots.

This is a helluva team—again.

Look up and down the roster and you won't see any high priced rookies. Where are they gonna play? The Pacers are coming out this year like they did last year. Mel Daniels in the pivot, once again destined to be the most underrated big man in the league; but watch him against guys like Gilmore and Beaty. McGinnis in one corner, with Brown and high-jumping Darnell Hillman splitting time on the other side. Lewis and Freeman at the guards, with Keller zipping off the bench, looking like a fire plug and playing like a fire starter. Don Buse as a swingman, and three or four beefy guys to hold down the bench. Last year one of them was ex-NBA great Gus Johnson, who paid off more in teaching talent than in playing time. But then the Pacers like to carry smart guys.

Once again the coach is Bob (Slick) Leonard, whose best talent seems to be getting his team ready for the big ones. Play it again, Slick.

Predicted Finish: 1st



Roger Brown



George McGinnis



Freddie Lewis



Mel Daniels

UTAH STARS

The Utah Stars have their big name coach now. They hired Joe Mullaney away from the Colonels to replace retiring LaDell Andersen. And there's only thing they want from Mullaney; break the damn jinx that sees the Stars win the regular season championship, then fall down and play dead for the Pacers in the playoffs. But Mullaney may not have the team and the style to do it. The Stars are getting old; especially in the middle where age has caught up to Zelmo (Big Zee) Beaty. And Mullaney—with the Colonels and the Lakers before them—has always geared his offense around the BIG MAN. He may be too late here.

The tip on Beaty—who has given 10 years to the pros at the most demanding position—is that his name was floated as Andersen's replacement before Mullaney became available. Beaty just isn't able to do it every night anymore. Last year his points slipped from 23.6 to 16.4; his rebounds dropped from 13 to 9.7, as the signs of age surfaced like the operational scars on his knees. Utah went after any and all college big man so the job wouldn't fall to back-up man, forward Gerald Govan, because Govan has trouble scoring on anything in shorts. But the best the Stars could sign is rookie B.G. Brosterhaus, a real Who's He? from Texas U.

Other than the Big Man, the Stars are as deep as anyone. Willie Wise in one corner is a quiet superstar. Govan in the other corner is a fierce rebounder. Cincy Powell is a plus on the bench, and the Stars have high hopes for rookie Pete Harris. In the backcourt, Jim Jones was the best in the ABA last year, and vets Ron Boone, Bobby Warren and Glen Combs are all good. But it all depends on Beaty and how hard he can go. For years the Stars have played in the worst pro-sports publicity town in the country. Now that they have a coach to get the national press, the team might be turning the corner away from it.

Predicted Finish: 2nd



Willie Wise

DENVER ROCKETS

Alex Hannum has been around the block enough to know that you don't win championships with guards. That's his problem with the Denver Rockets, a team that consistently gets the most out of very little. Hannum's got all the guards he needs. He's got a sure star in Ralph Simpson, who scored 23 ppg last season shooting poorly and playing poorly. He's got Warren Jabali, the MVP of the all-Star game and an all-ABA pick, who played better than ever—better even than when he was Warren Armstrong and the rookie of the year. He's got Al Smith, a surprise rookie from Bradley who almost beat out Brian Taylor for rookie

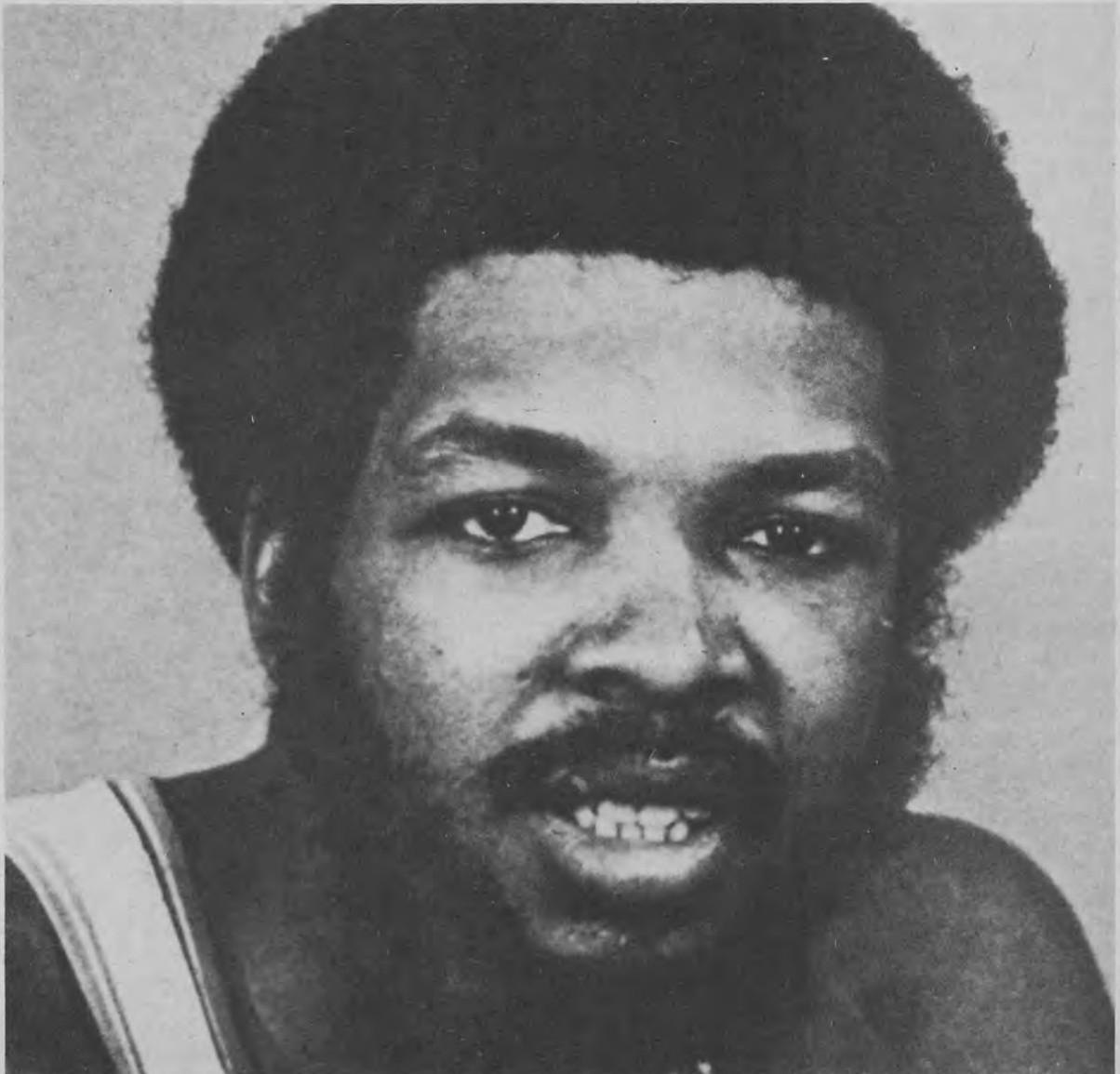
honors.

But who do they get the ball to? Okay, there's center Dave Robisch, who's improving yearly and seems ready to take his place among the good big men in the league. But in the corners? There, there are veterans like Byron Beck, Julius Keye (he backs up Robisch too), Willie Long and Marvin Roberts, who are being joined this year by thin rookie Pat McFarland. Beck and Keye might be the best combination, but the difference from one to five is slight—and the inference is obvious. Denver won't be a championship contender unless it can trade for a Julius-McGinnis-Issel

type, and those types aren't for sale.

Hannum tried his best in the draft. He went for the best of the college forwards in Marvin Barnes, Clyde Turner and Mike Bantom. He didn't get them, and settled for MiFarland, who shoots as well as any, but won't help off the boards. So Hannum will content himself with some forwards who rebound very well and score pretty little—and hope the guards can make liars out of an old axiom. Denver's famous for the unexpected. Remember the Olympics? This city voted them down.

Predicted Finish: 3rd



Warren Jabali

SAN ANTONIO SPURS

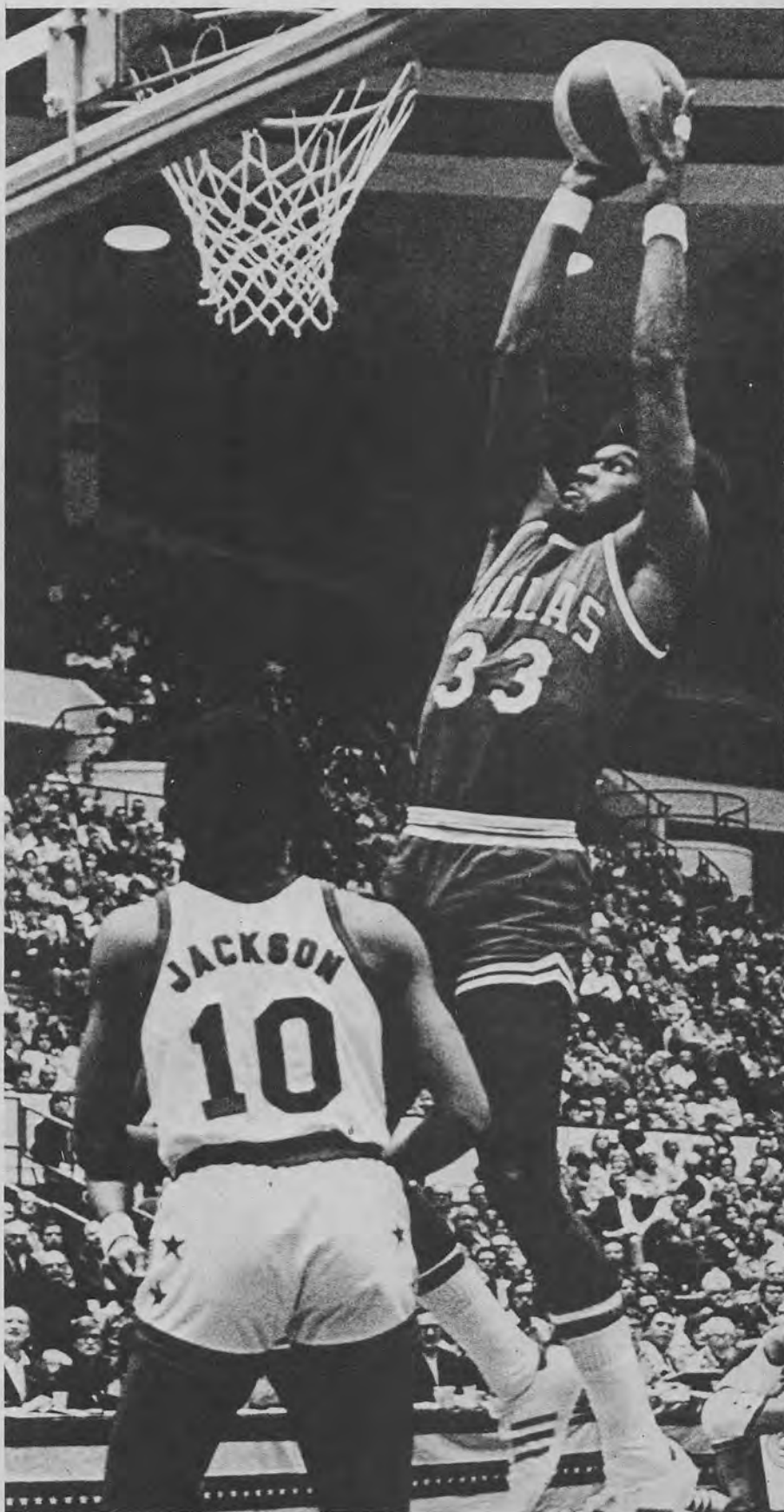
Here we go round the roses again; the yellow roses of Texas—and this time the Chaps are in San Antonio. Only they're not the Chaps anymore; they're the Spurs. They've got their old coach back too, in Tom Nissalke, who did wonders in Dallas two years ago, only to fall flat on his contract in Seattle last season. Not much has changed from that old gang he left two years ago—they're still bad.

Last season the Chaps/Spurs had a total of 18 different players in uniform, none of whom got even a single vote for the all-ABA team. Their leading scorer Rich Jones (tne of four players named Jones to play on the team last season) shot 42% from the field. They had by far the worst defense in the league; allowing opponents to shoot 50% against them, and score 115 ppg. They had a rotating backcourt of Larry Jones, Skeeter Swift, Joe Hamilton and Jim Silas—none of whom could start this year on any other team in the league. And to say they captured the hearts of Dallas fans would be like saying; sure Sen. McGovern only won one state, but he finished second, didn't he.

One thing that will change this season is the defense. Nissalke made his rep teaching defense, and he'll do it again. With a cast of marginal talent he can do at least that. On the bright side, eight Chaps/Spurs scored in double figures last year, and Rich Jones, Bob Netolicky, Collis Jones and Goo Kennedy are a competent front line. Add prize rookie Bird Averitt, and the team is major league up front. Unfortunately there is no real center; only forwards, and nothing of class in the backcourt. The Spurs are hoping Rich Fuqua can come in and score like he did at Oral Roberts. But then someone else has to dribble the ball up court. There's always El Paso next season.

Somewhere in Texas, basketball—or whatever it is the Spurs play—has to succeed.

Predicted Finish: 4th



Rich Jones

SAN DIEGO Q's

The game they're playing in San Diego is called "Make the Most of Things Until the Messiah Comes." So the Q's and their millionaire dentist owner Leonard Bloom make do with cast-off players and a third class arena—the 3,200 seat Community Concourse—waiting for the man who will lead them to the promised land.

It wasn't Bill Walton, the UCLA center. He's turned down two San Diego offers already to skip the rest of his college days and get the big bucks early. He's in L.A. again.

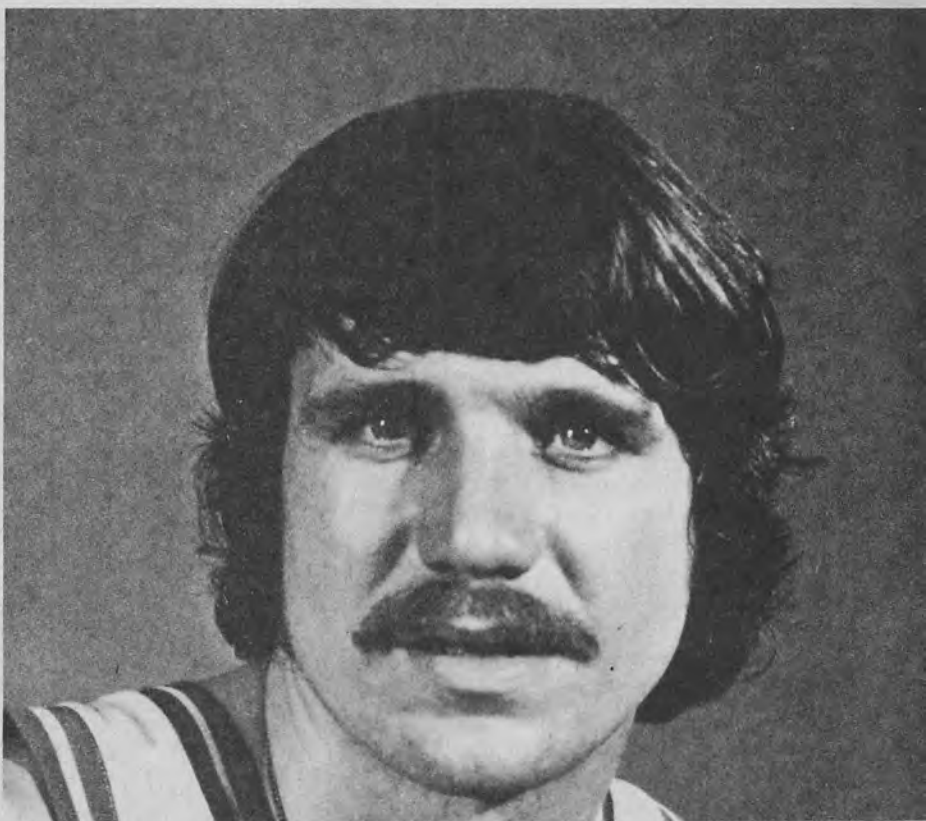
It wasn't K.C. Jones, who did such a good job of taking the rag-tag Q's to the playoffs last year before jumping this year to the Capital Bullets of the NBA. He's in Washington.

It wasn't Wilt Chamberlain, although Bloom reportedly offered him \$5,000,000 to become the player-coach here. He's in L.A. too.

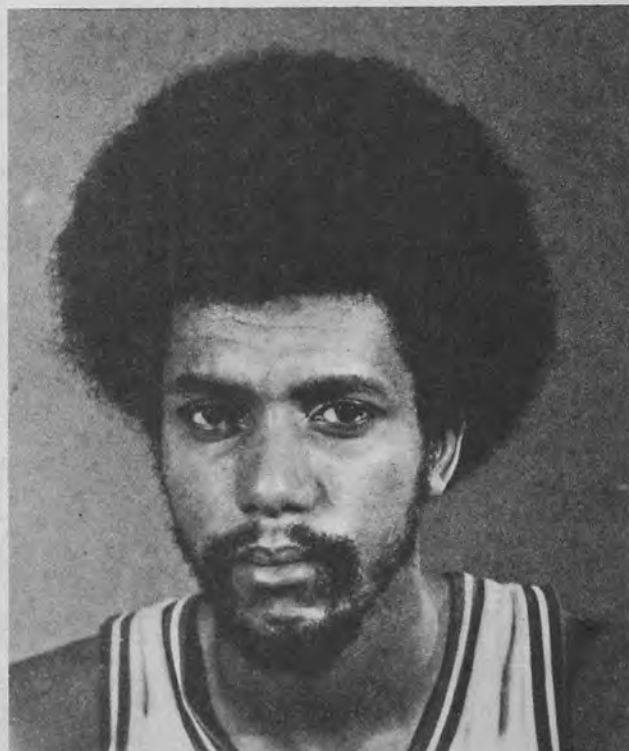
No, the Q's will again have to make do with first line players saddled with second line abilities. Stew Johnson, for example, who scored 22 ppg last year, and Chuck Williams, who got 17 ppg. If any one of them played defense those stats would be impressive. Or Larry Miller, who was supposed to be the big scorer, scored only 14 ppg and shot but 41% from the field. Gene Moore, who wouldn't be the starting center if the Q's had a center, played better than expected but fouled out of 22 games. Guys like Ollie Taylor, Simmie Hill and Red Robbins are back again too, but messianic they ain't. They're in San Diego.

The best news in the area are the two good rookies the Q's signed over the summer—Dwight (Bo) Lamar, the No. 1 pick and flashy runner-gunner from Southwestern Louisiana, and Tim Basset, a 6'7" strongboy from Georgia. Lamar will draw people and score points with his Earl the Pearl style, but water seeks its own level and the Q's will be near the bottom again.

Predicted Finish: 5th



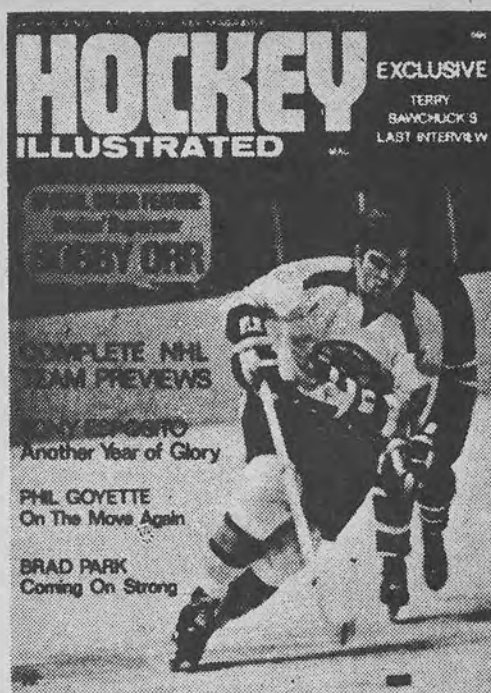
Larry Miller



Stew Johnson

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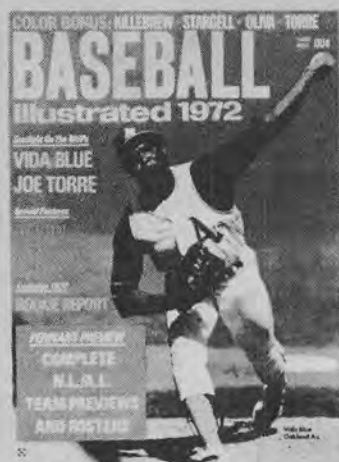
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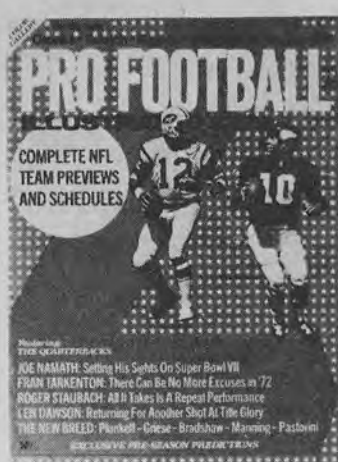
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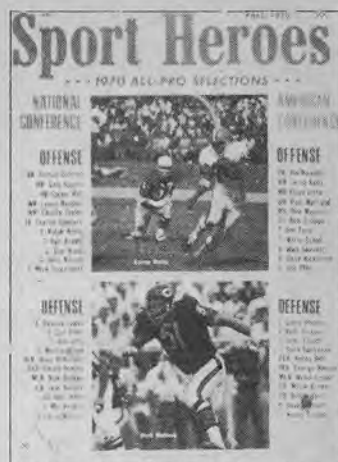
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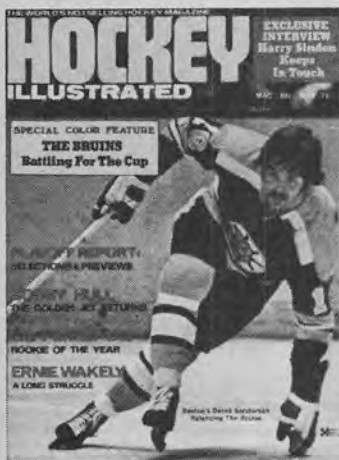
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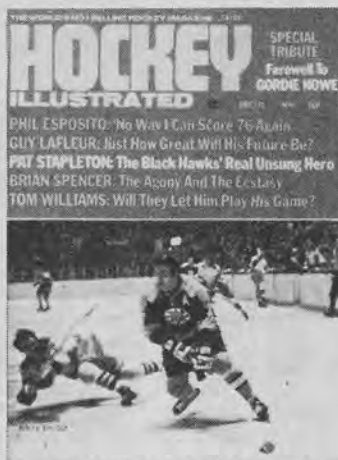
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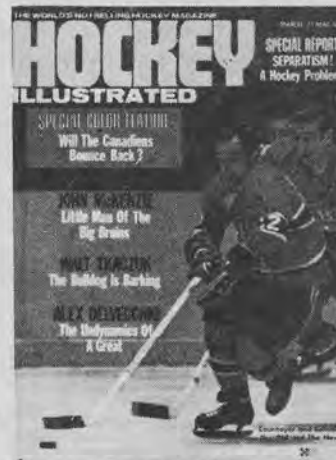
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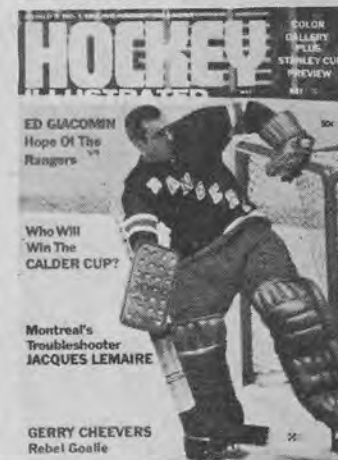
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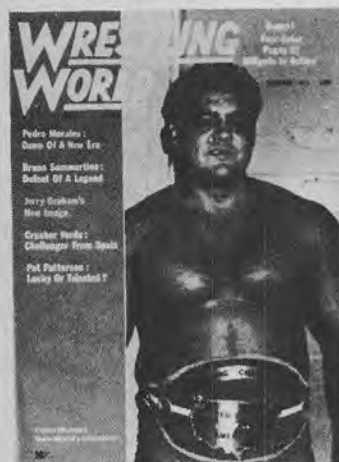
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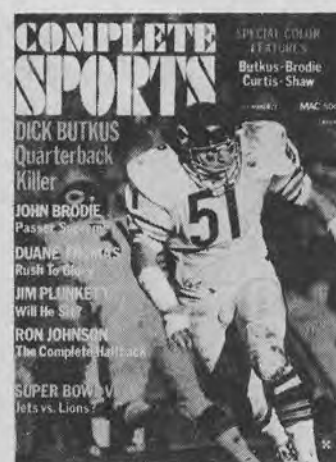
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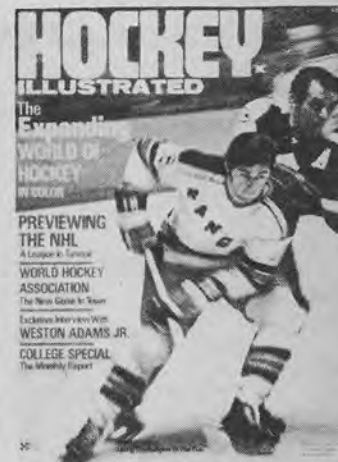
Wrestling World (Summer 1971)



Wrestling World (Feb. '70)



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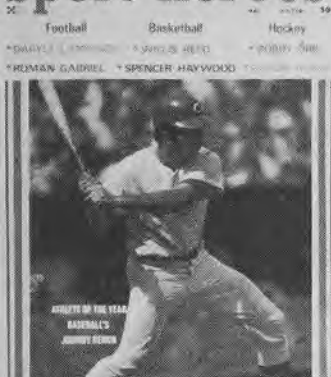


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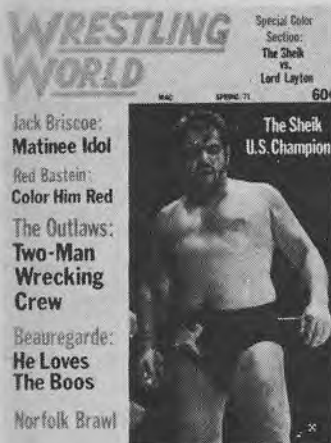
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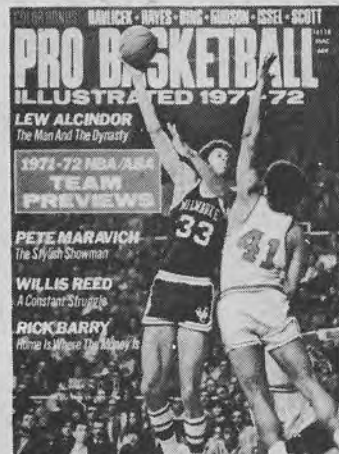
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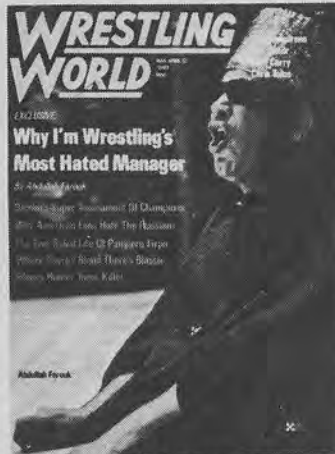
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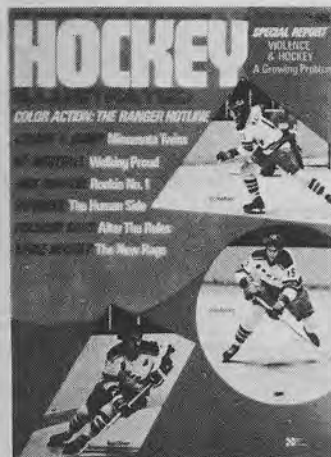
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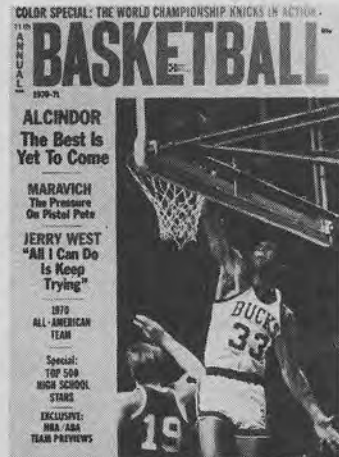
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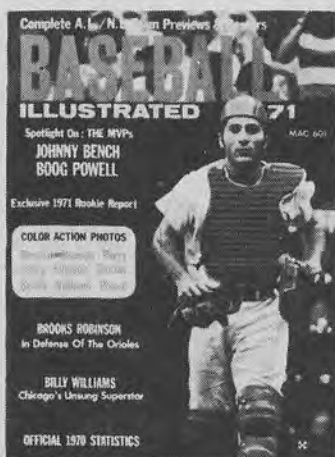
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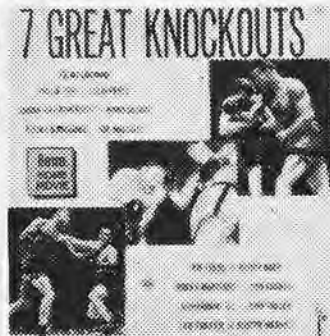
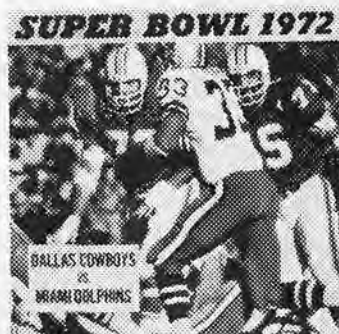
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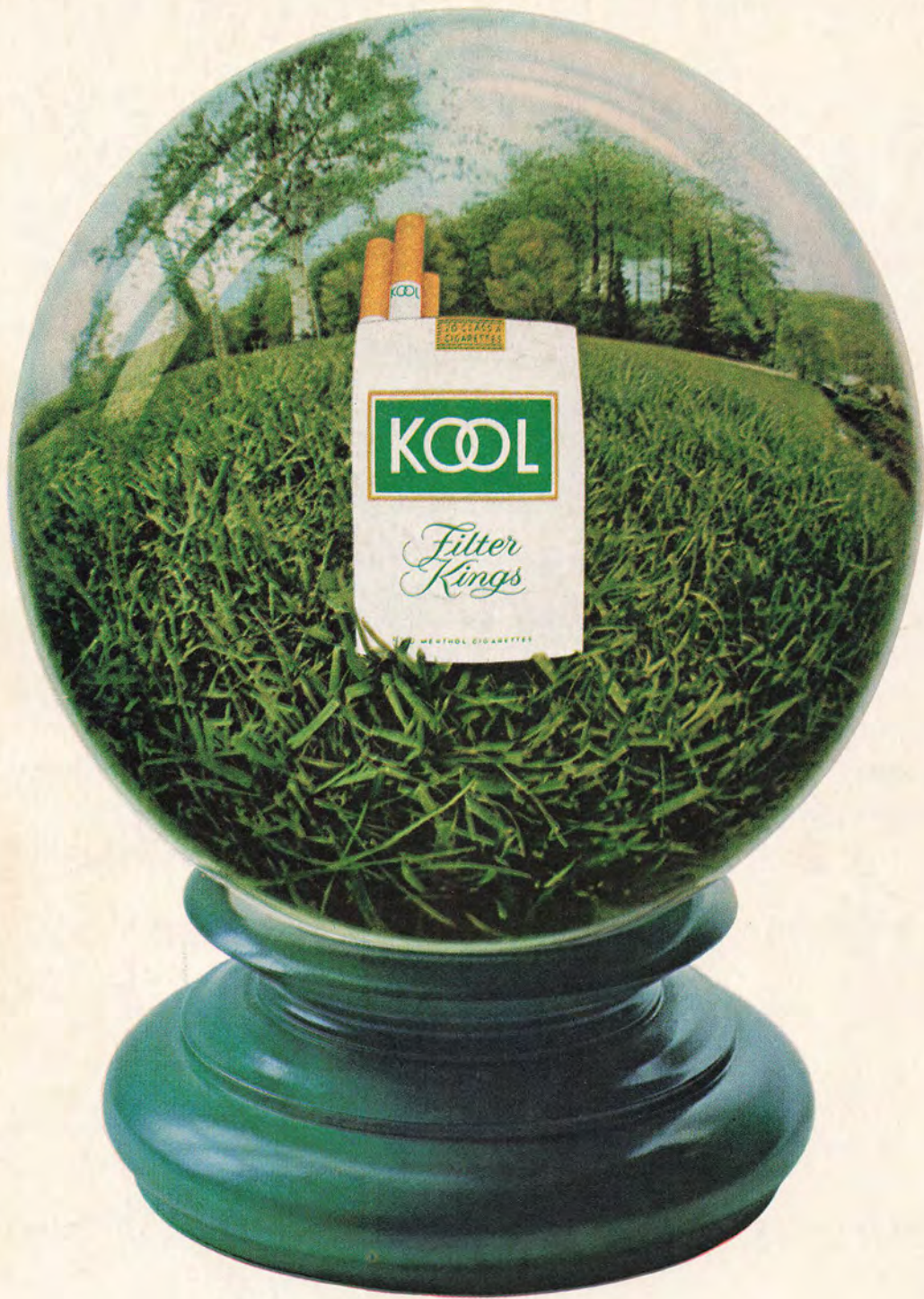
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